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METRO / A19

Supreme Court orders suspension of Caloocan judge convicted of child abuse

NEWS / A3

Bulusan explodes 9 times, spews ash over 3 towns

MOTORING / B8

15 things to bring on road trip on All Saints' Day

NEWS / A2

International lawyers group pressures gov't to solve bishop's killing

Scam artists cashing in on fake American Dream

IT IS APPARENTLY THE most crooked raffle prize for anyone hacking the American Dream. But unfortunately for Filipinos, they have long been disqualified from this annual draw.

The US Embassy in SCAM ARTISTS AG

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEW

Wednesday, October 11, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 305

Defiant PRC chair says GMA's order improper, calls Brion, Ang intruders

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG'S FLIP-FLOP ON THE controversial nursing licensure examination yesterday degenerated into a Cabinet row as a Senate hearing on the budget of the Professional Regulation Commission.

PRC Chair Leonor Tilgao Rosero accused Labor Secretary Arturo Brion and Commissioner on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) Chair Dante Ang, calling them "intruders." The two men, who were not present at the hearing, are pushing for a retake, while Rosero has stuck to her stand against it.

Rosero also said President Macapagal-Arroyo's order transferring the PRC to the labor department was "improper."

Brion later denied being a "prohibitionist" (meddler), and said he would investigate the PRC's "inaction, negligence or omission" on the leak of test questions that had marred the exam.

Ang said Rosero could not "comprehend the damage" she had done to the nursing profession, but said he was forgiving her for accusing him of doing a demolition job.

Rosero, a topnotcher of the dental board exam and Mrs Arroyo's dentist, was defiant when she talked about her differences with Malacañang on the proposed retake and the transfer of the PRC from the Office of the President to the Department of Labor and Employment.

"Up to this time, our stand is no retake. It is those people who have been intruding and doing a demolition job [on] the PRC," she said when Sen. Franklin Drilon, finance committee chair, questioned her about the scandal.

When Drilon asked her to name names, Rosero said Brion had been de-

DEFIANT: A10

Nurses in limbo, take call center jobs

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT A NUMBER OF those who passed the June nursing licensure examination have found jobs, but the bad news is that some of them are now call center agents, research assistants—and nurses on probation.

"We come from reputable schools. We believed that hospitals would not think twice in accepting us," 21-year-old Joanna Espinosa of the University of the Philippines College of Nursing said at a press conference in Manila on Monday.

Espinosa and 17 other graduates of UE University of the East Ramon Magsaysay University of Santa Teresa and Far Eastern University

NURSES: A10

GRIM REAPER. The nursing licensure exams last June continues to reap protests from passers across the nation. At Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila on Tuesday, protesters chant slogans and play the Grime grim. MJ SIN

World to punish Nokor

US leads weapons, financial embargo

UNITED NATIONS—WITH WORLD LEADERS roundly condemning North Korea's announcement it had carried out a nuclear test, United Nations Security Council members weighed an arms embargo and financial sanctions on Pyongyang.

The United States drafted a resolution calling for intensified inspections of all cargo moving into and out of North Korea to detect "weapons-related material, a freeze on any transfer or development of weapons of mass destruction and a ban on luxury goods. The draft was to be discussed yesterday.

Japan proposed even more stringent measures in amendments to the document from US Ambassador John Bolton, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters. These included banning all North Korean ships and planes from all ports if they carried nuclear or ballistic missile-related materials.

Tokyo's UN Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, the current Security Council president, told members condemned the test and "emphasized that the response of the council should be strong, swift and very, very clear in its message and its action."

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun vowed to review his "sunshine policy" of engagement with the isolated state. Newspaper commentators slammed him for being too soft, with one declaring the country in its worst crisis since the Korean War more than half a century ago.

Australia said it would impose a range of measures on North Korea, including curtailing visas and

WORLD TO: A6

12 killed, 31 hurt in N. Cotabato bombing

By Jeoffrey Maitem and Edwin O. Fernandez
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—AT LEAST 12 people were killed when a bomb exploded near the town hall of Makilala, North Cotabato, at 8 last night, officials said. (See related stories on Pages A8 and A15).

The explosion occurred in a plaza where a row of commercial stalls, a carnival and cultural presentations in a nearby gymnasium had attracted crowds this week as Makilala celebrated its 92nd foundation anniversary.

Earlier yesterday, the United States Embassy in Manila had warned that it had received "credible information" that a terrorist group might be planning bomb attacks, particularly in cities in central Mindanao, "over the next several days."

Makilala Mayor Cecilio Benjamin could not immediately say how

1 KILLED: A6

ROAD TO BEIJING

No money, no honey in taekwondo

By Francis Ochoa

(Last of a series)

HONG SUNG-CHON knows the harsh reality of the Olympic goal. It's going to take money.

"It's an investment," says the Korean president of the Philippine Taekwondo Association (PTA).

By Hong's estimate, it's going to take around P30 to P35 million to support the PTA's bid for a gold medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympiad. Such an amount doesn't assure any athlete of the gold medal just yet.

The key word here is, of course, support.

It's a cold, cruel truth, no matter how hard Hong tries to weave it up with his trademark sense of humor.

"It's just like in boxing and taekwondo," he says. "No punch, no point. No kick, no point ... No money, no honey."

The Philippine Sports Commission, a perennial source of financing for one of the country's most productive and least politicized national sports associations, is just too small an organization to bankroll the country's bid for its first gold medal.

"It has to be something bigger, something no less than the president of the country oversees, something like the Gatorade Alley," Hong says, referring to the effort to produce medal winners during the Ferdinand Marcos years.

NO MONEY: A11

INSTILLING PRIDE is being a national player costs plenty. Mary Antoinette Rivera (left) of the Philippines competes against Yanina Sanchez Beron of Argentina in the women's under-57-kg taekwondo at the last Olympic Games in Athens. AP

Boxing is RP's best bet for 1st Olympic gold medal

By Dennis U. Eras
Inquirer Cebu Sports Editor

MUCH HAS CHANGED IN AMATEUR boxing since huntsweight Jose "Gaby" Villanueva punched his way to the bronze medal in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics.

Now, rules are different, technique has evolved scientifically and boxers, given the right mix of mental fundamentals and state-of-the-art training, can evolve into fearsome fighting machines.

But one thing has remained constant: The country is still in a seemingly never-ending search for the Holy Grail of Philippine sports—an Olympic gold medal.

BOXING: A11

For 10 RP boxers, journey to China begins in Cuba

By Jeoffrey Maitem
Inquirer Mindanao

KIDAPAWAN CITY—FOR 10 Filipino boxers, the road to Beijing will begin in Cuba.

When they get there before yearend, they will undergo rigid training in preparation for the Olympic pre-qualifying tournament against other Asian boxers in December 2007.

Joey Bacolcolo, North Cotabato provincial point man for the Governors National Amateur Boxing Circuit, says those who will win gold and silver medals will go to the Beijing Games in 2008.

FOR 10 RP: A11

OMBUD SHAN GUTIERREZ defends ruling: Where were complainants in the graft case during the 12 hearing days?

Ombudsman: No crime, no reversal of SC ruling

By Norman Bordadora and Jovanie Aning

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSman did not reverse the Supreme Court decision when ex-Ombudsman panel said there was no evidence of criminal liability against Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos and other officials involved in the voided P1.3-billion poll automation deal, Ombudsman Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said yesterday.

"Did the Supreme Court say that there was a crime involving the Mega Pacific contract? There was none. If there was a crime, the Supreme Court would have ordered the confiscation of the counting machines or they are the proceeds of a crime," Gutierrez said at her first news conference after approving an Ombudsman panel resolution clearing Abalos and the others.

Gutierrez was not of the majority when the panel chaired by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro announced the controversial resolution on Oct. 2.

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga had called the Ombudsman's resolution "an unthinkable reversal" of the Supreme Court decision that voided the Comelec's contract with Mega Pacific.

In its January 2004 decision, the Supreme Court told the awarding of the contract to Mega Pacific violated the law and the Comelec's own bid-

OMBUDSMAN: A6

A1
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Second FRONTPAGE
Provided by NewspaperDirect
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

Ethics probe of Enrile pressed

By TJ Burgonio

THE OPPOSITION IN THE SENATE ON Monday pressed the chamber's leadership to reconstitute the ethics committee to hear the complaint filed by former senator Rene Saguisag against Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile for alleged unethical behavior during a hearing into government-negotiated corporations.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. moved for the reconvening of the ethics committee after he delivered a speech bewailing Enrile's threatening to slap him at the height of their debate on the antiterror bill last week.

Pimentel nominated his colleagues in the minority—Senators Panfilo Lacson, Jamby Madrigal and Alfredo Lim—as the committee. "This should be convened immediately," he said. The ethics committee has been without members and a chair since Franklin Drilon was Senate President.

Current Senate President Manuel Villar Jr., however, said convening the ethics committee was not a priority at this time since Congress was set to adjourn on Thursday for a three-week break.

Last week, Saguisag asked the Senate to investigate Enrile for his conduct during the inquiry into the issues of certain government-organized corporations, for possible violations of ethical standards.

Drilon's family has a 6-percent stake in Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC), a firm formerly controlled by cronies of the late President Ferdinand Marcos and which is now 35-percent owned by the government.

The latest of POTC, as well as of its latest sequestered companies Philcomsat and Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC), have been the subject of an inquiry by the Senate committee on government corporations chaired by Sen. Richard Gordon.

Saguisag, the lawyer for officials of one sequestered company, said Enrile, who had inhibited himself but remained to participate in the proceedings, was "thereby arguably lawyering for his family for pecuniary gain."

Int'l lawyers prod gov't on bishop's slay

A VISITING INTERNATIONAL group of human rights lawyers has condemned the killing of Aglipayan Bishop Alberto Ramento and vowed to make sure the international community knows about it.

The International Association of People's Lawyers, which begins a four-day conference in Davao tomorrow, includes human rights lawyers from Greece, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Turkey, Afghanistan, Nepal, India, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and the Philippines.

The congress will take up the Ramento killing as well as the overall human rights situation in the Philippines, said Belgian delegate Jo Stevenheydet.

Stevenheydet and six IAPL delegates, including IAPL vice president Edre Olalia, yesterday visited the wake of Ramento at the Iglesia Filipina Independiente's National Cathedral in Manila.

"I was shocked not only because the victim was a bishop, but also with the way he was killed," said Stevenheydet who said she had met Ramento a last year.

Ramento, the Supreme Bishop of the IFI, or the Aglipayan Church, was stabbed to death in his car concrete in Tarlac last Oct. 3. The Philippine National Police has declared the killing solved with the arrest of four perp shivers in Tarlac last week.

Moral pressure

But Ole Ramento family and various activist groups have dismissed the police findings, stating that the bishop, whose anti-government stance, was killed for political reasons.

Olalia said Ole IAPL delegates would come up with a resolution at the end of the conference "exerting moral and political pressure on the Ole Arroyo government to do something."

Stevenheydet said the congress would also most likely call for an independent investigation into the murder.

"I think it's strange that police already had an explanation. They should have been a more thorough investigation. The bishop had been receiving death threats," she said.

Alalayadang yesterday appealed to groups censuring the police findings to refrain from putting political color into the Ramento killing.

"Let us not prematurely judge these incidents," said Ocean Breezelay Iglesia Filipina.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said it was evident that the recent killings were being used as a tool "destabilize the government."

"We should remove any political color in these killings. Otherwise those behind these killings would only be encouraged to do so," said Gonzales, adding that the investigation be left to authorities.

In Congress, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. has filed a resolution urging the Senate to look into the killing of Ramento because of the doubts being cast on the police investigation.

He noted the report of a inter-member fact-finding team from church and human rights groups which found the police conclusions "haphazard and incredible" as well as contrary to eyewitness accounts.

He noted that the IFI was the most political of all the Christian churches, often taking strong positions against the establishment.

Nationalist church

"As a known nationalist church, it has a more definitive vision of utopia as manifested in an ideology of nationalism and a strategy of protest and activism," Magsaysay said.

The IFI is a national church that was born out of the Philippine Revolution against Spain. It separated from the papacy in the 1902, but has since come to a "similar creed" with the Catholic Church, whose sacraments, liturgy and basic creeds it shares, the senator said.

At the House, Zambonga-del Sur Rep. Isidro Real Jr. and Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy called on the House committee on peace, good order and investigation of the Ramento killing while urging Aglipayan bishops to suspend judgment pending official resolution of the case.

"They can file charges if they have the evidence that the Ramento slay case is politically motivated," said Real, a vice chair of the House committee on peace, good order and.

So she mentioned militant groups against claiming that Ramento was a victim of an extra-political killing.

"Using the political angle just to hit government is an affront to the name of the good bishop," he said. *Reports from Christian V. Esguerra, TJ Burgonio, Michael Lim Ubac and Christine Avendaño*

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Bulusan explodes 9 times spewing ash over 3 towns

LEGAZPI CITY—MT. BULUSAN IN SORSOGON exploded nine times yesterday, hurling clouds of ash up to 3 kilometers in the air that fell in the towns of Casiguran, Irosin and Bulan.

Director Renato Solidum of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said more explosions could occur and advised local residents, for 4-km permanent danger zone around the 1,565-meter high-volcano "remained off-limits to the public."

He said Phivolcs was maintaining alert level 2 over Bulusan "because of its abnormal state of unrest."

Alert Saturday summer research analyst of Phivolcs-Ducol, said the areas immediately affected by the ashfalls were villages at the foot of the volcano. The ash explosions started at 5:31 p.m.

Solidum said the Phivolcs observatory in Bulusan had reported volcanic earthquakes during the past few days. The volcano area has been closely watched after a series of tall explosions earlier this year.

"This is expected because it's on alert level 1. We're still evaluating whether we would raise the alert level," said Solidum in a phone interview with the inquirer.

He said they would head to other activities or what we have to find out. We need to know if there is movement of magma in the volcano."

Solidum said:

Solidum said ash explosion occurred on June 26. On July 29, Phivolcs lowered its alert level from two-1, which means there was volcanic activity but no threat of an eruption soon.

Bulusan experienced nine ash explosions since March 31, prompting school closures and the evacuation of some communities. The explosions also caused labor flows in the center of the town economic fears.

Casiguran Mayor Edwin Hamor said yesterday's explosions were a "beautiful" sight.

"The explosions looked like lightning in heaven," Hamor said while thanking the volcanic activity. Barangay Gubat-Gubat, some 4 km from Bulusan's crater.

He said trucks were on standby to ease the affected villages needed to be evacuated.

Bulusan is foregoes a the fourth most active volcanoes in the Philippines. It has erupted at least 15 times, with the last violent occurring in December 1994 and lasting up to January 1995. The eruption affected more than 45,000 residents of the towns of Bulusan, Barcelona, Casiguran, Irosin, Juban, Sorsogon and Bulan.

Mike Ochoa, Epifanio Aguilar, Jeanne Lee Batino and Bobby Lobaton, Inquirer Southern Luzon; with Danielle S. Rivera and Cyril J. Bonalaure, Inquirer Research, in Manila

Marcos crony's bid to quash case denied

By Norman Bordadora

THE SANDIGANBAYAN THIRD DIVISION OUT of hand on Wednesday the ill-gotten wealth suit filed against Marcos crony Rodolfo Cuenca, founder of the defunct Construction and Development Corporation of the Philippines, now known as the Philippine National Construction Corp.

In a 23-page resolution last Oct. 5, the Sandiganbayan Third Division upheld the case against Cuenca, and to be a close associate of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

The court, however, dismissed the case against Cuenca's co-accused former Philippine National Bank president Rodolfo G. Domingo and former GSIS president Nina O. Vicente for lack of evidence.

"Insofar as defendant [Cuenca] is concerned, we find the existence of greater weight of evidence or probability of the truth of the allegations constituting plaintiff's causes of action against said defendant," the Third Division said.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government had filed a forfeiture case against Cuenca and several others.

The PCGG alleged that Cuenca used his ties with the Marcos family to acquire ill-gotten wealth.

Ma. Luisa Orendain, freedom fighter, 86

MA. LUISA GATMAITAN OROSDAIN PASSED away on Oct. 8. She was 86.

Orendain was only 15 and in high school when she began working for the Philippine Herald, a now-defunct paper of the Manila Bulletin.

She married her schoolmate Juan C. Orendain who became the Philippines' first Press Secretary under President Manuel Roxas.

In an era when public relations was not considered the necessary profession it is today, she was known as the resident of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines, which she and six gentlemen founded. Miss Eduvala is the last remaining survivor of the group.

An AP wire photo that summer around the world, symbolizing the Filipino defiance of the Marcos regime was of two women sewing a banner, standing tall and unflinching, banner held aloft, the freedom fighter faced a phalanx of men, arms raise, some armed with shields and truncheons, some holding powerful water cannons. That woman photographed on Dec. 10, 1984, flashed fights flag was Louise Orendain.

Of Katalonian, Basque and Spanish descent, she was among Chapter 27 of a book on the Castillejos. Although unfinished, she had covered the centuries from 1727 up to 1914, applying the same hard work, when published, will be of some value to historians, her father, Juan Gatchee, was a well-loved governor of the Mountain Province, and later, a senator in the Commonwealth.

The former editor of the Catholic missionary magazine, The Call, Orendain died while delivering a short speech at her own birthday party. She was talking about how happy she was when she collapsed.

She is survived by her children Juan, Jose, Ma. Sofia and Chippy, and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Interments will be at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after the 9 a.m. Mass on Friday at the Holy Church Mandaluyong where her body lies in state.

RP cited by AI on death penalty

By Norman Bordadora

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL THURSDAY cited the Philippines for taking the lead in abolishing the death penalty in a region where countries refuse to do away with capital punishment.

AI, which earlier scored the Philippines for the number of alleged extra-judicial killings during the last few years, lauded the country for its abolition of the death penalty in the wake of its membership to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

"The Asia Pacific is a region that has bucked the worldwide trend to abolish the death penalty," the London based organization said in a statement.

AI, executive of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, except the Philippines, retain the death penalty for a wide variety of crimes. In some countries—notably Singapore and Vietnam—the number of executions is believed to have risen sharply in recent years, according to AI.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2006

"A THREAT to political security and economic stability in northeast Asia," members of a militant group says in a statement during their protest rally on Tuesday.

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DFA ready to evacuate 50,000 Filipinos

By Volt Contreras

A CONTINGENCY PLAN [illegible] TURCE IS ready in case the Korean peninsula becomes an unsafe place for Filipinos, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

DFA spokesperson Jo Makaya assured families with members working in the two Koreas that for now's thinking and planning were in place "in case these contingency plans are needed."

Makaya declined to give details of the plan, saying it is being, but said it was last "updated" in August by the Philippine Embassy in Seoul as a matter of standard operating procedure "in case of civil disturbances and similar events."

Quoting a report sent to the DFA yesterday morning by Ambassador to Seoul Susan Castro, Makaya said the South Korean capital "appears normal" after the North ignored international appeals and detonated its first atomic bomb on Monday.

The people of South Korea were "concerned but relatively unperturbed" by the latest actions of its reclusive communist neighbor, Makaya said, quoting from Castro's report.

There are about 50,000 Filipinos in South Korea, some 65 percent of them employed in factories and in the retail, services and construction sectors, according to DFA figures. They also include [illegible] and spouses of Korean nationals.

In North Korea, Makaya said, there were only "18 Filipinos (there) whose presence are known" to the Philippine Embassy in Seoul. He clarified, though, that Pyongyang was under the jurisdiction of the Philippine Embassy in Beijing. [illegible] reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Jerome Aning and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

12 killed . . .

From page A1

package in a plastic bag at a mall after he bought something.

Minutes later, there was no explosion.

"I was so saddened by what happened. I condemn this act of terrorism," Recuplo said.

Recuplo said the Joycom data 12 people were killed while 25 others were wounded.

Later, officials in Bulacan were City where the victims were brought said there were at least 21 injured.

Speaking on local radio, town police chief Supt. Ferdinez Delay said the police "suspect that as it was money was used by the perpetrators."

Delay said police had recovered from the blast [illegible] parts of an SL ammunition.

In an advisory to its citizens, the US Embassy said that "although there is no specific targeting information, US citizens should avoid travel to cities in central Mindanao."

The embassy did not specify the names of the cities.

Two Philippine security officials monitoring the area said the Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiyah and its local ally, the Abu Sayyaf, had long planned bombings in Mindanao.

They said the capture last week of 18 militant Dulmatin's wife, Istiada Binti Omar Asvia, might have expedited the plan to retaliate for her arrest. The officials requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Dulmatin, an al-Qaida-linked militant, is among Asia's most wanted terrorist suspects, being for his alleged role in the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people. AP

Correction

IN THE OCT 7 ISSUE, a front page story—"Superior killers get life but bring fate"—misspelled the name of the executive director of the Philippine Prison Institute. The DPI executive director's name is Jose Portia—not Feliz.

Provided by NewsgroupDirect

World to punish North Korea

Front page A1

supporting any UN sanctions.

But a defiant North Korea further stoked tensions by threatening to fire a nuclear-tipped missile if the United States did not negotiate with it directly. South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported one of Beijing yesterday that the North Korean official is rallied at sanctions and demanded concessions from Washington.

"We hope the six-nation talks will be resolved before an underground incident of us firing a nuclear missile comes," the unnamed official said a day earlier, according to Yonhap. "That depends on how the US will act.

US resolution

Six-way has been scheduled as the 15-council members over the US resolution to their capitals, although British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry hoped for adoption by the end of the week.

Among the five powers with veto rights, Britain and France pressed for sanctions, although neither country said whether all the measures Washington had proposed were acceptable.

Russia and China were cautious. "I think we have to react firmly, but also I believe that, on the other hand, that the door to solve this issue from a diplomatic point of view is still open," China's UN Ambassador Wang Guangya said.

Doubts on Wolsan claim

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesperson Liu Jianchao declined to rule out possible UN sanctions against North Korea, asked what China thought of the possibility of military action. Liu told a news conference: "I think this is an unimaginable step."

Still, there were some doubts of North Korea's claim.

US President George W. Bush said intelligence officials were still trying to confirm Pyongyang's announcement on Monday that it had carried out an underground nuclear weapons test.

But Bush said that the claim itself "constitutes a threat to international peace and security."

Beijing, according to unidentified sources at a closed-door meeting, would cut limit North Korea's ability to import or export nuclear or ballistic missile technology. The draft resolution also calls for an end to Pyongyang's access to illicit funds, including its alleged manufacture of counterfeit US dollars.

"We think it's important to respond even to the claim of a nuclear test by the North Koreans and we'll be going 24/7 if we need to get that resolution adopted quickly," Bolton said.

The US proposals highlighted the Proliferation Security Initiative that Washington launched in May 2003 to encourage member countries to interdict weapons from North Korea, Iran and other states of concern.

Arms-related sanctions

The Security Council has already imposed weapons-related sanctions on North Korea in December 1695 in July and many of the new UN proposals expand or strengthen those measures.

Separately, Washington has an array of asset freezes on the country's state-owned country, including a ban on military items and financial institutions. The Bush administration has considered tightening trade prohibitions lifted by then President Bill Clinton when Pyongyang agreed to a missile moratorium in their dismissed in July 4.

Both China and Russia have suggested the United States even go to bilateral talks, but there is no sign Washington would do so unless North Korea rejected six-party talks.

The two Koreas, China, Japan, the United States and Russia have held talks aimed at ending Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program in exchange for economic incentives. But North Korea walked out of them a year ago and refuses to return until Washington ends a financial squeeze.

Return to 6-party talks

China's foreign ministry said it was taking active steps to encourage North Korea to return to the six-party talks but warned Pyongyang that it had damaged relations with the only country that counts done in being its ally.

Pyongyang's declaration was a sharp blow to Chinese President Hu Jintao's doctrine of using economic and diplomatic coaxing to end North Korea's drive to become a nuclear weapons state.

"We think the UN Security Council should take appropriate action," ministry spokesperson Liu said, adding that Beijing was still studying what that action should be.

The yes hit an eight-month low against the dollar on talk that Pyongyang had conducted a second test, extending losses after North Korea's announcement the day before.

Japan, effectively Tokyo sanctions and considers to North Korea by those suspected of links to the development of weapons of mass destruction after missile tests by Pyongyang in July.

However, officials in Tokyo made clear that, before adding fresh sanctions, Japan wanted confirmation of whether the underground test declared by North Korea actually took place.

'Grave threat' to Japan

"This is an especially grave threat and challenge to the security of our nation," Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a parliament committee. "Should we confirm this, we need to swiftly take our own tough measures against North Korea."

A US official said it could take several days for intelligence analysts to determine whether the event in an area near North Korea's border with China was an unsuccessful nuclear test, a small nuclear device or a nonnuclear explosion.

"If it was a nuclear test, it appears to be more of a fizzle than a pop," the official said.

Officials in Japan, South Korea and China all said they had not detected any change in radiation levels.

Analysts say North Korea probably has enough fissile material to make six to eight nuclear bombs but probably lacks the technology to devise one small enough to mount on a missile.

US Democrats, eager to oust Republicans from control of Congress in next month's mid-term elections, wasted no time on Tuesday in accusing President George W. Bush of being in a state of denial about North Korea as he pursued a war in Iraq. *Reports from Reuters and AP*

BIGGER THAN LIFE. After the astounding announcement of the North Korean government on Monday, life goes on in the capital Pyongyang, like its people routinely paying their respects before the statue of their former leader Kim Il Sung, father of the ruling Kim Jong Il

Scam artists cashing in on fake American ...

Front page A1

Manila yesterday issued a warning against users artists out to lure Filipinos with false hopes of winning the 2007 US Diversity Visa Lottery.

"While Filipino citizens born in the Philippines are not eligible for this program, the US Embassy is concerned that some unsuccessful citizens may fall prey to criminals who try to make money by claiming they can help you win an immigrant visa in the DV lottery," the mission said in a statement.

Under the US program, 50,000 US immigrant visas are made available each year to people who come from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States.

Citizens from countries that have sent more than 50,000 immigrants to the United States over the past five years are excluded from the selection. The US Embassy processes more than 50,000 immigrant visa applications in Manila every year.

The US Department of State's National Visa Center holds the lottery every year, choosing "winners" randomly from all qualified entries.

Fraud schemes

Those selected will also have the opportunity to apply for permanent residence which, if granted, would authorize them to live and work permanently in the United States. They will also be allowed to bring their spouses and unmarried children under the age of 21 to the United States.

The lottery process for the 2007 program has officially started—and this is that time of the year when "fraud schemes resurface" targeting aspiring immigrants, the embassy said.

"If you receive an e-mail, phone call, or letter saying you have won the US Diversity Visa [DV] Lottery, the US Embassy urges you to be cautious. Do not pay any money to individuals claiming they can help you get a diversity visa," it said.

Victims are usually told that they have won a visa and that they must send a "clearance/acceptance fee" in order to claim the visa.

"Sadly, the only 'winner' is the criminal who takes your money," the embassy said.

"Part's the lesson that some hopeful immigrants throughout the world are learning the hard way as a result of fraud schemes that resurface every year."

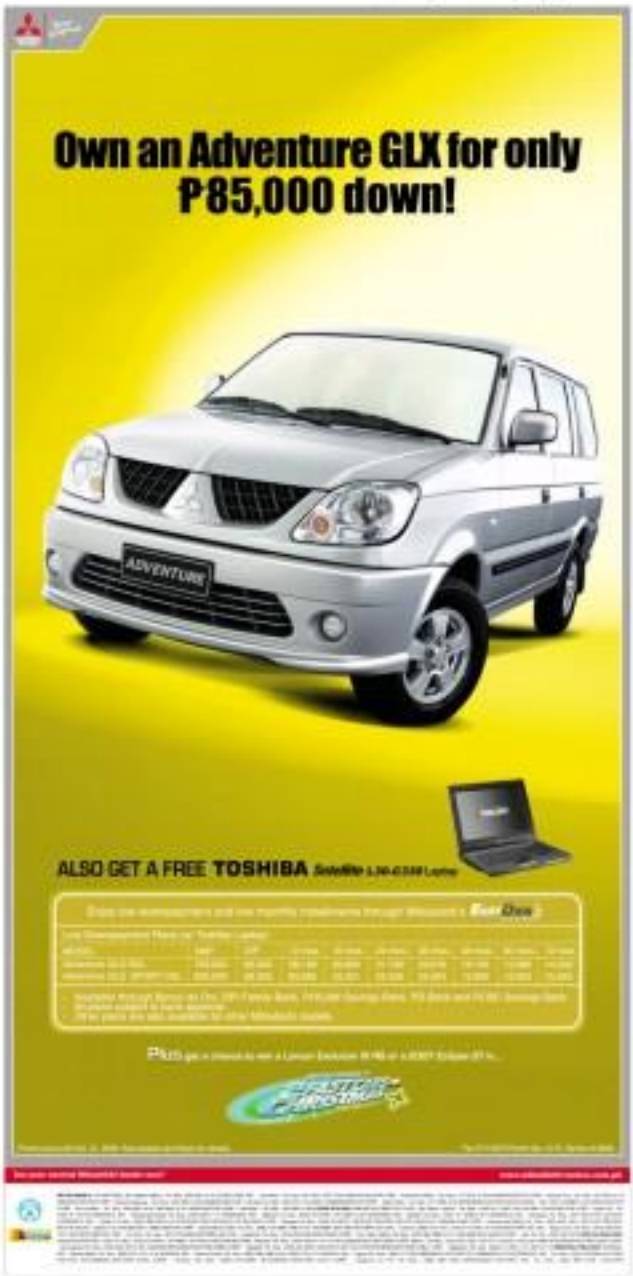
Official-looking e-mails

The most common racket involves the use of "official-looking e-mails and websites designed to copy the ED state department website or e-mail communication," it said.

(The real time to commit an US immigration or visa matters are http://ydv.Philippines.usembassy.gov/, www.travel.state.gov, and www.unitedstatesvisas.gov).

The victims would then receive a so-mail congratulating them on winning the DV Lottery and giving them directions on how to pay the "fees."

"Do not trust someone who offers to get you a visa—for a fee—as diversity visa or any other type of US benefit," the embassy warned. Still Controversy



Ombudsman: No ...

Front page A1

ding rules. The high court had also said that Mega Pacific's assisting machines were vulnerable to "abortion fraud on a massive scale by means of just one computer."

Like Salonga, Sen. Juhn Ejercito, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee that investigated the Mega Pacific deal, said the Ombudsman in effect ignored the Supreme Court and the Senate, which found the deal anomalous.

"This decision of the Ombudsman is unprecedented, outrageous and shocking." As was her said at a press conference on Oct. 3, apparently referring to Gutierrez.

Complainants snubbed probe

Gutierrez said the panel received no evidence that substantially showed criminal liability, malice and bad faith on the part of any of the respondents.

She said the complainants in the graft case against Abalos et al. practically snubbed the panel probe when they had the chance to present evidence of criminal intent against the respondents.

"We had 12 public hearings in the Gawilan case. We called and invited all the complainants, witnesses and all others with interest in the case—many from civil society groups, NGOs and other fora," Gutierrez said in Filipino.

"But the complainants didn't actively participate and failed to submit their evidence in the 12 hearing days," she said.

The complainants included former Akbayan Leader Ayaliza Pimentel Jr. and Kilos Bayan Foundation Inc. headed by Salonga.

Never invited

"We did our duty in accordance with the law, in accordance with the Supreme Court directive and based on the evidence that we received," Gutierrez said.

"We gave all those interested in the case [the chance] to attend and actively participate in our public hearings. However, it's sad to say that when the investigation is already done, we see and hear them on radio, on television and in the newspapers airing their views, criticizing our decision," she said.

But Augusto Lagman, president of Information Technology Foundation (ITF), said the Ombudsman did not invite his group. "There never was any invitation. If there was any invitation I don't know whether it was sent to," he said.

Even if ITF had been invited, there was no need to prove additional evidence because the Supreme Court ruling "already nailed" that Comelec officials had committed grave abuse of discretion in awarding the automation contract to Mega Pacific, Lagman said.

Santiago defends Ombudsman

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago said the Ombudsman was well within its powers to exonerate the Comelec officials, and expressed her belief the Ombudsman would be upheld in the Supreme Court.

Santiago said that in its 2004 decision nullifying the deal, the high court directed the Ombudsman to determine if the criminal liability of Comelec officials "attached either."

"The Supreme Court did not order the Ombudsman to file criminal charges," she said.

Santiago said that while the Supreme Court may direct the Ombudsman, an independent constitutional body to investigate cases, the high court may not order it to make a finding one way or the other.

"I see no rule of my constitutional grounds that I challenge the opposition to file a petition with the Supreme Court against the Ombudsman and Comelec officials led by Chief Abalos," Santiago said.

She said she was sure that any petition to question the Ombudsman's resolution and the clearance granted to Abalos would not be upheld.

Pimentel said he would file a petition asking the Supreme Court to reverse the Ombudsman's decision.

Santiago said the opposition had failed to establish evidence that a crime had been committed by the Comelec officials.

"But the opposition has so much greed, it should also recognized of upholding the people over pecunious legal points exaggerated beyond reason," she said.

Contrary report

Mary Lopez, another member of the panel, said the committee had considered the report submitted by the Ombudsman's own Field Investigation Office that recommended the filing of criminal and administrative charges against all the respondents.

The FIO, represented by Ms. Elora Olivia Reina, said there was a conspiracy to award the contract to Mega Pacific as shown by Abalos' personal ties to some of the consortium's executives.

"But again, we didn't find any evidence supporting that claim," Lopez said.

The panel also didn't see bad faith in Abalos' telling the Senate blue ribbon committee that he didn't know any of the Mega Pacific executives. The FIO found out that he had exceptions one of the opinions in the wedding of one of the officials of the Mega Pacific complex, one of the executives of Mega Pacific.

"We based our decision on the statements submitted by the private complainants. That's **unanimous to our investigation,**" Lopez said, referring to the Senate proceedings.

The panel said most of the witnesses presented before the clarificatory hearings had the opportunity to appear before the blue ribbon committee.

"Ideally [the Senate committee's] findings be sufficient for a determination of probable cause. But the Ombudsman is not bound by constitutional body. The Ombudsman was able to arrive at its resolution through the benefit of a more comprehensive presentation and appreciation of evidence," the paper said.

Abalos lied

In a statement, Salonga said that Abalos had lied before the Senate committee hearings because of the FIO finding that he was clear enough in the Tanjuatco to stand as a sponsor in the wedding of one of the couple's children.

"Even if supplemental complaints was filed, all to fail thinking. On the other hand, the Gutierrez panel was tasked with determining whether there was probable cause to hold the Comelec officials criminally and administratively liable ... which entails a more comprehensive presentation and appreciation of evidence," said the panel in its written explanation of its decision to clear the Comelec officials.

"The Sept. 27 resolution is a product of a thorough evaluation of all documents, evidence and statements of witnesses. We have considered all these, including the FIO report and complaints of Attorney Bedar," it said.

The panel also explained why it took it to record in June decision that cleared the culpability of Commissioner Benjamin Abalos and were basis of the bids and awards committee.

Lopez said it was established during the 12-day clarificatory hearings that the minutes of the meetings were not deliberate. "The automated counting machines were shown to have 100-percent accuracy," he said. With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana

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SC upholds Laguna gov's win

By Raymund H. Macas

LAZADA

THE SUPREME Court has ruled that Teresita Lazaro is the duly elected governor of Laguna.

In its 10-page decision, the high court turned down an appeal filed by senior citizen-politician Imelda "Dan" Fernandez, who questioned the Commission on Elections' (Comelec) resolution proclaiming Lazaro winner of the last election.

The resolution, penned by Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, said the petition of Fernandez "lacks merit."

The Supreme Court en banc dismissed the suit filed by Fernandez and affirmed the March 9, 2006 resolution of the Comelec en banc in favor of Lazaro.

Fernandez had sought to suspend the canvassing of the certificates of canvass by the Provincial Board of Canvassers (PBOC) during the 2004 elections claiming widespread tampering of election results in two Laguna towns, Bifian and San Pablo City.

Fernandez claimed that the alleged election tampering had increased Lazaro's votes. The Laguna PBOC, however, denied Fernandez's motion and subsequently proclaimed Lazaro as the winner, prompting Fernandez to bring the case to the Comelec's First division.

Lazaro, in the proceedings before the Comelec, pointed out that Fernandez's claim was tenuous since he did not file written and formal objections with the appropriate board of canvassers and failed to produce evidences of fraud.

The Comelec's First division initially suspended Lazaro's proclamation and directed the Election Records and Statistics Department (ERSD) to reconfigure the ballots. The suspension was lifted, but a month later, the Comelec again directed the ERSD to reexamine the election returns.

On April 12, 2005, the Comelec's first division dismissed Fernandez's petition, prompting the parties to take the case to the Supreme Court.

The SC ruled for Lazaro, saying that Fernandez's petition lacked merit and that there had been no grave abuse of discretion on the part of Comelec.

"Grave abuse of discretion arises when a lower court or tribunal violates the Constitution, the law or existing jurisprudence... It is imperative for petitioner (Fernandez) to show cogent and arbitrariness on the part of the court or agency whose exercise of discretion is being assailed," the high court said.

Fernandez, the active star of films such as "Bagsakan," made the move recently when he sought for the annulment of his 10-year marriage to actress Gloria Vacarel.

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PNP: Street crime down under new chief

By Alcuin Papa

STREET CRIMES ALL OVER THE country were down by nearly half in the first 100 days in office of Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon, according to a police official.

At a press conference yesterday, Director Wilfredo Garcia, PNP Directorate for Operations chief, said the number of reported street crimes—which include robbery, snatching and theft—dropped from 4,373 in the third quarter of 2005 to 3,404 incidents in the same period this year, representing a 62-percent decrease.

Garcia said robberies were down 19 percent, or from 1,873 incidents in 2005 to 866 this year.

Thefts declined by 51 percent from 710 in 2005 to 354 in 2006.

Physical injury cases went down by 47 percent from 393 incidents in 2005 to 207 in 2006.

As a whole, the overall reported crime volume was down 8.3 percent from 15,486 incidents in the third quarter of 2005 to 17,661 incidents for the same period this year.

Kidnapping showed a significant drop of 58 percent in the third quarter of 2005, there were 16 reported incidents this year. There were only eight.

Drug cases also dropped by 62 percent for the same period with 1,955 cases in 2005 down to 1,424 cases in 2006. Calderon attributed this to the increased activity of the PNP's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Task Force.

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MILF wants to visit wife of terror suspect

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC Liberation Front (MILF), one of the biggest rebel groups in Mindanao, has denied that it has any links with the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah,one of the most-wanted terrorist groups in the world.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said yesterday they would officially ask the government, through their representatives in the peace panel, to allow them to visit the detained wife of Indonesian Al Ghozi and bail bonding company Bulusanbe, to clarify her alleged claim that the MILF is associated with the Al-Qaida-linked terrorists.

Kabalu said allegation that the Maguindanao-based MILF is a soldier of JI operatives, or is being trained by the Indonesian group, has been repeatedly denied by their group. "The accusation is so derogatory and baseless," he told the media.

"We want a dialogue with the jailed wife of Bulusanbe to hear from her why some groups always connect the MILF with the JIs," he said, adding that she might have been forced by her military interrogators to link the MILF with JI.

"It will not be a sympathy visit, but an official one in view of the name of the MILF which has been dragged into the reported activities of the Jemaah Islamiya," Kabalu said.

Bulusanbe's wife Istiada Datuan Sorin alias Amerah Taki and her two sons were arrested by government agents in Parañaque, Metro Manila last week. Military officials claimed she had confessed that her husband and Dinni Pandi, another suspected JI operative, had slipped into southern Mindanao from Indonesia and are now fighting with the extremist Abu Sayyaf and other rebel groups in Mindanao. She is also reported to have said that the Philippines is a "prime target" for bomb attacks for supporting the US war on terror following the Sept. 11 attacks in the US.

Washington is offering a $10 million (about P500 million) reward for the capture of Bulusanbe. US troops have been deployed in southern Philippines since 2002 to arm and train Filipino soldiers battling the militants. A major offensive to capture the two Indonesians and Abu Sayyaf leader is underway.

The MILF is a breakaway faction of the Libyan-backed Moro National Liberation Front, is presently engaged in peace talks with the government and has distanced itself from the smaller but more militant Abu Sayyaf group led by Afghanistan-trained Khaddafy Janjalani.

Published intelligence reports, however, had reported JI infiltration in the MILF-influenced Buhatan area in Maguindanao several years ago. Alberto G. Bernardo, Inquirer Mindanao

Australians warned of terror attacks in RP

SYDNEY—Australia warned its citizens Tuesday to avoid parts of the Philippines, saying intelligence reports indicated attacks on places frequented by foreigners remained imminent.

"The foreign affairs department, reissuing a travel warning first given in June, said the threat applied particularly to mainland Mindanao in the south, the Cordillera in Northern Luzon and the Sulu archipelago.

"Recent credible reporting indicates terrorists may be in the advanced stages of planning an attack against foreigners," it said.

"These reports indicate that attacks on businesses and social venues are imminent," the department said on its website, repeating the tenor of previous travel advisories for the region.

"Possible targets include restaurants, shopping malls including mega malls, hotels, hostels, guesthouses, bars or clubs in major population centers."

Australians are strongly advised not to travel to these areas and those already there should consider leaving, the advisory said.

For the Philippines overall, the government advises a "high degree of caution because of the high threat of terrorist attack," saying some reports suggest the capital Manila could also be a target.

"Those frequented by foreigners, such as bars, pubs, shopping malls, hot food outlets and places of worship may be targeted by attack."

Fighting in the southern Philippines has intensified following the arrest of the aide of a senior Jemaah Islamiyah militant, the military said Monday.

The warning came after reports in Australia that Philippine extremist group Abu Sayyaf was sheltering members of the Jemaah Islamiyah militant group, the island of Jolo, near Mindanao.

A total of 92 Australians were killed in terror attacks in neighboring Indonesia's resort island of Bali in 2002 and 2005 blamed on Al-

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Defiant PRC chair says GMA's order ...

From page A1

standing that the PRC conducts a retake, while Ang was "sticking out no good things about the PRC."

During his confrontation hearing at the 3rd commission on appointments in an adjacent room, Brion said he had asked the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the duties made to the licensees by a nursing professor than the purported irregularity, also ordered "from 1 and 2, apart from from 10 and 9's of the five-year board exams.

He said he had also made the initial recommendation to Ms Arroyo to order a retake and was now "talking a fit and look" of it satisfied.

Malacañang's flip-flop on the retake bounded three at his confirmation hearing, where lawmakers grilled him about the nursing mess instead of his qualifications for the labor portfolio.

Responding to a question posed by Cebu, Brion said he had learned about the supposed leak in Team 1 and 2 only from the hearings.

"I would like to ask the NBI about this. I have instructions to my staff to contact the person who made this allegation so we can ask him about this matter," he said.

Rene Luis Sadic, president of the faculty association of the University of Sto. Tomas College of Nursing, told the hearing last weekend that five students from Baguio City had submitted affidavits to the NBI saying they had received leaked questions for Team 1 and 2.

Brion confirmed he was now in charge of the cheating issue, with the President issuing Executive Order No. 585 placing the PRC under the Labor department.

He said he had submitted a draft EO for a retake of Tests 11 and 9 but that Ms Arroyo told him to wait for the NBI to complete its probe. He said Ms Arroyo had also told him to "translate" the results of the shakeup with the stakeholders in the nursing profession.

"So as matters stand now, I have been given by the President the authority to act on the matter of whether there will be a retake or [not]. I have not yet acted on the matter. I am taking a fresh look [at the issue]," Brion said.

Asked by Sen. Richard Gordon where he would make his decision, Brion said: "As soon as possible."

'Liar'

At the Senate hearing, Brion said what Ang had been saying—that the board exam was tainted and that the new exams were not being accepted abroad—was "not true."

He said 11 states in the United States were accepting nurses without the PRC license and 20 more did not require the CGFNS (Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools) certificate.

Many hospitals have even also calming in the new exams, she said.

If Brion said Reuters was in effect calling Ang a liar.

Ang was attending a Cabinet meeting at Malacañang at the time.

CPO Executive Director Jose Ibrahim, who was seated beside Reuters, said he was not in a position to respond to the arrest.

But Ang later told the Reuters: "I forgive Brion; I think the cannot comprehend the situation. The PRC has done to the professional board system and the licensure board system other how the board of PRC's incompetence when it newspaper the grades and give a 2-percent increase in the examinees, thus effectively populating our health care [system] with nurses whose competence is questionable at best."

He added: "The court will clear such the legal issue, but whether the court can issue a writing is truth look [at the issue]," Brion said.

Asked by her, Richard Gordon where he would make his decision, Brion said: "As soon as possible."

'Liar'

At the Senate hearing, Brion said what Ang had been saying—that the board exam was tainted and that the new exams were not being accepted abroad—was "not true."

He said 11 states in the United States were accepting nurses without the PRC license and 20 more did not require the CGFNS (Commission on Graduates of Foreign

Oath-taking to go on

Taking it a step further, she said that regardless of the Cabinet decision, the PRC would administer the oath to the 17,821 nursing graduates who passed the June 11-12 exam and register them when the temporary restraining order issued by the Court of Appeals expires on Oct. 16.

Reuters said that among the passers, 8,000 had taken their oath and a third of that number registered as nurses before the TRO was handed down.

"Only those 17,000 board passers who don't know what will happen to them. So are just wait and count out fingers that this problem will resolve itself," Dilmoloded.

Reuters said she would have to follow the Cabinet decision whatever it would be. But she added: "I think the court [and not the executive branch] will be the one [to] decide this."

She also said she was confident that the court would uphold the PRC decision to administer the oath to the exam passers.

Dilloo expressed dismay at how Malacañang and the PRC were handling the problem.

"I was told [that] the problem is so confused as to what you are doing and what the President is doing. Now the issue we heard is the President is leaving [the matter] to [them]. This does not speak well of your commander-in-chief when he cannot specifically issue control of the solution to this problem. Isn't this a cause? It would appear to me you are incapable of handling the situation."

General supervision

As Brion's confirmation hearing later, Dilloo asked the labor secretary to respond to Reuters's attack.

Brion denied he was interfering with the PRC. He said that by virtue of EO 585, the Department has given him "general supervision" over the commission.

Gordon asked Brion if it was true he recommended Reuters's resignation as consul before the TRO was handed down.

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Now, GMA zeroes in on nursing diploma mills

By GIC. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO ENTERED TO discourage parents from sending their children to substandard nursing schools.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo had ordered the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to publicize fully a general assessment of all nursing schools, including their performance in the licensure examinations in the last three years, in order to separate the serious institutions from the diploma mills.

According to Bunye, a presentation by CHED Chair Carlito Puno in yesterday's Cabinet meeting showed that "some schools have almost zero passing average."

Not out to shame

"This is very worrisome because if you have these types of institutions, you can see the quality of education [dropping]. This will serve as a guide to prospective enrollees as to where they should enroll," he said at a press briefing.

Bunye said the government was not out to shame the below-par nursing schools. "It's to be

NBI report on Oct. 15

Bunye said Ms Arroyo and the Cabinet did not discuss the proposed retake of the June nursing board exams at the meeting because they had decided to wait for the report of the National Bureau of Investigation on the purported cheating.

The NBI report is due on Oct. 15.

"There will be an announcement within the week about this, and we believe this issue will be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties concerned," Bunye said.

IN TRAINING. Florencio Parrao (left) spars with team mate Mark Jason Melligen at the Ateneo gym as the Royal Memorial Coliseum for the Asian Olympic boxing qualifying in January 2004.

Boxing is RP's best b

From page A1

One man thinks it isn't so empty dream.

Ritter Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap), says capturing the elusive gold is an attainable once the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"Capturing the Olympic gold is not a far-fetched dream. I'm upbeat that we'll get it in Beijing provided that the necessary requirements, like a comprehensive training program, technical preparations and funding, are present," says Lopez, his voice vibrant and full of life.

Seven challenge

Also the secretary general of the Federation of Asian Amateur Boxing and a senior member of the powerful International Amateur Boxing Association technical commission, Lopez faces the enormous challenge of producing the first Olympic gold medalist.

"Winning the Olympic gold is like climbing stairs," he says. "We've climbed two and 1/2 stairs on our way to Beijing. Winning the overall title in the Southeast Asian Games is a good start. The next stair is the Doha Asian Games."

Lopez replaced his father, former Manila Mayor Mel Lopez, as Abap president in 1994 and became an Olympic boxing.

The passing years have done a semblance to lean on the successful Quezo his Olympic gold program spearheaded by his father, which resulted in light-flyweight Leopoldo Serantes and Rod Salcedo winning bronze medals in the 1988 Seoul and 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Adapting to the times

"Of course, we also fine-tune it [the program] to adapt to the modern times," Lopez says, noting that one thing going for the organization is its unity.

Lopez believes that the search for Olympic gold is not solely Abap's task.

"It's a national endeavor. The private and public sectors must chip in. We go for the holistic approach," he says.

The historical significance of Villamor's achievement in the 1920 Games last but no

Threshold of history

It was Rod Velasco's younger Manuntag, a pocket-sized pepper with winged feet, who symbolized the hunger for bronze when he won the light flyweight final against Indian Jitendra Kumar in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

"That was a very special bout for me on the threshold of history. All of the country stood still and remembered," Velasco says. "At that time I don't get the desired result."

Velasco lost to the fiery Bulgarian Serantes, who went on to win the gold.

Velasco lost to the fiery Bulgarian four years earlier, had won the bronze medal in Barcelona. Earlier Velasco garnered the silver winner, 19-6, before Olympic title in Atlanta.

Overwhelmed, Velasco collapsed the arena.

Lopez says tragedy alone made him hungrier than the country for Olympic gold was about to vanish.

"Despite all other medals (boxing) has earned, gifted temperamental medal in the Olympics," he says. "Despite being lucky but imagine if no boxers wins a gold medal," Lopez said.

More disappointments

But again, the country was disappointed.

Lopez and Abap came under fire when their only representative in the 2000 and the 2004 Athens Olympics, Mark Jason Melligen, was eliminated in the first round.

"Lady luck simply didn't smile on Melligen in Sydney considering that three of his seven bouts were won by a split decision," Lopez says.

Nurses in limbo, take call center jobs

From page A1

gathered at the conference hall of the UP College of Nursing to appeal for a retake of the latest board exams.

According to Espinosa, almost half of her class sought jobs at call centers after hospitals refused to act on their applications pending the decision of the Court of Appeals on the cheating controversy.

Espinosa said she had also worked at a call center after graduation, said she would go back to her job if hospitals continued to turn away nursing applicants belonging to Batch 2006.

"I tried applying at the Philippine General Hospital, where my classmates and I served as trainees in college, but PGH did not give me a schedule for an interview," she said, adding that she had been experiencing depression because of her situation.

On probation

But not all the board passers had difficulty finding work.

Joy Delfin, 23, a graduate of Angeles University Foundation (AUF) College of Nursing in Pampanga, said many of the board passers were "assuming" hospitals in Angeles City.

"I was accepted at AUF as a nurse shortly after the release of the board exam results," said Delfin, No. 12 of the Top 20 passers.

But she was accepted on a probationary basis because she had yet to be issued a nursing license.

"We are afraid that we will be terminated from our jobs if the passers, who are now the retake of the board exam," she said.

Delfin spoke with the hopeless during a rally yesterday at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila, where

around 300 nursing graduates from various parts of Luzon and their parents assembled to make public their "no-retake" stance.

According to Espinosa, a whole week's worth additional expenses for her and other members of her batch.

She said her family had spent P65,000 for her enrollment at two different review centers prior to the June exams.

"The solution to the enigma that the prosecution group has been unfolding is to pronounce the guilty and not to persecute us," Delfin said.

Research assistants

Another UP graduate, John Isaac Paredes, said he and four of his classmates had been working as research assistants because of the lack of job opportunities.

"We are rewarded only by the fact that our research work is always being praised," Paredes said.

Yeni Rose Espinda, also a graduate of the UP College of Nursing, was fortunate to be accepted as a nurse trainee at a Singapore clinic.

But Espinda said her work-month-long contract was "terminated" by hospital officials who "prohibited" from performing the duties of a registered nurse, such as administering injections, for lack of a license.

Sherwin Rose of UERM said only a retake of the exam would handle the "cloud of mystery" that had been hanging over those who took the June exam.

"We have to move on with our lives and plan our future," said the still jobless nurse.

'Suspended reality'

She added: "We cannot do this with everyone declaring in because of the supposed leakage of test questions."

Rolando Samson, father of AUF nursing graduate and board passer Zhrina Charisma Samson, traveled from the family home in Mabalacat, Pampanga, to Liwasang Bonifacio to back the call against a retake.

Samson said he and his wife had shelled out P65,000 for their eldest child's review expenses.

"We are depending on our child, dear, so help us, we need her," he said in Filipino. "Since it seems we are in suspended reality."

Samson, 56, said he worked long hours selling cars, houses and lots, seven days a week to help his daughter achieve her dream of becoming a nurse.

He said that despite the expenses, Zhrina and with their other children enrolled in college, he always made sure Zhrina paid her tuition on time.

Speaking for its nursing school graduates, especially because the family lost everything in Mt. Pinatubo's lahar avalanches, which claimed their village of San Fernando in Mabalacan in 1992.

"Helping me regarding kasabihan [Filipino proverb meaning really big]," Samson told the Inquirer in Angeles City.

As many as 300 other AUF nursing graduates passed the board exam, Two members of the batch made it to the ranks slot in the Top 10, and 43 others were among the Top 20.

'Not the solution'

"A retake is not the solution to the so-called integrity of the exam as of the nursing profession. The solution is to punish those who are behind the leakage. Why make our children the sacrificial lambs?" Samson said.

"Assuming there really was a leakage, the competency of nursing graduates cannot be solely measured by a one-time licensure exam. They benched four years of rigorous training. They needed no retake if they were not competent," he said.

Samson said the AUF's standing in the academic community—the ninth among 300 nursing schools nationwide in 2005—spoke enough of its excellence.

Joy Delfin said she and her colleagues did not benefit from the leak. "We took the exams fairly and squarely."

She said that while her parents, public school teachers Juanito and Imelda Delfin, would not join her at the rally because they were at work, they were also against a retake.

Delfin completed her nursing course on scholarship at AUF for days a week, she negotiated the Angeles City Jeepney Terminal Manibaug, Pare, to get to school.

"My really gave me love, and [the government] should not take away our careers in that sense," she said. "We did not cheat."

Delfin said a retake would "heighten the stigma, not reduce it."

Joint statement

In a joint statement, the AUF graduates and their parents called on the government to prosecute those responsible for the board guilty of taking part and benefiting from the cheating.

They also appealed to the Board of Nursing, the Professional Regulation Commission and the Association of Deans of Philippine Colleges of Nursing to uphold their first decision that a retake was not mandatory. With reports from Rosario Ordax, Inquirer Central Luzon

No money, no honey

From page A1

"It was so successful because it was directly under the President. Sports was really a national concern then."

Bunye Bunye, as the country's top cash-strapped agencies, is not complaining, though.

Using money wisely

Instead, the PSA accepts whatever the PSC can spare from its Olympic national budget. Last year, it was only by—pocket also to liquidate the funds to the last centavo and matching its regional associations to do the same.

"That's taxpayer's money," Hong says. "We hold ourselves responsible for it and we want every regional association that gets help from the government to liquidate also after it gives to them. That's why we hold annual seminars to teach everybody to our association how to liquidate funds."

The PSA has also tackled the budget problem proactively. It has learned to source funds from the private sector to its grassroots programs and has sought its regional associations the same thing.

Brown, Milo and Samsung have been the association's loyal partners, contributing more than their fair share of funds to ensure the continuity of the training of the pins.

See what a peso buys

Whatever they give us, we don't complain," Hong says. "If you give us a peso, we smile, say thank you and keep quiet. Then we try to see what we can do with the peso."

The synergy has worked because according to Hong, the companies do not find pressured to dole out pricey sponsorship packages. They sit down and watch how our financial aid is used and, when satisfied, actually spearhead the increase.

"And since we have no problems with corporate support, we can focus on the athletes," Hong says.

Tankwondo has grown into one of the

Lopez, Abap was founded in 1947 (
late Eugenio Pacyao, who led it for 1

"It took 10 years and its you
country to get its first Olympic
Anthony, GO's son, came into
of producing the gold in the 19
Olympics against Russian
Saengsakkaw," Lopez says.

"I'm not going to back down
challenge of producing the mon
Olympic gold medalist, but I do
first Olympic gold," he says.

Threshold of history

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"Despite all other medals (boxing) has earned, gifted temperamental medal in the Olympics," he says. "Despite being lucky but imagine if no boxers wins a gold medal," Lopez said.

More disappointments

But again, the country was disappointed.

Lopez and Abap came under fire when their only representative in the 2000 and the 2004 Athens Olympics, Mark Jason Melligen, was eliminated in the first round.

"Lady luck simply didn't smile on Melligen in Sydney considering that three of his seven bouts were won by a split decision," Lopez says.

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Technology traveler

"We're looking for wearable technology," Hong says. "But this time, it's taking the players abroad, we're [the] Boxing's national players base."

The qualifiers for the Olympics start next year, with the first stops in the Olympics. One will be held in September and one in May or late November.

Then, among those who will Hong will select the four best to go to the Olympics in Beijing.

Training in Korea

He will have two other major meets and an evaluation tournament to determine the four players — two in the men and women classes. The men and women's boxing in Beijing Southeast Asian Games.

"After that, we will have one more. And I will personally oversee the evaluation," Hong says.

CUBAN COACH Honorato Espinosa, widely known for producing Cuba's 11 Olympic gold and 48 world championships, will be training the Filipino boxers by yearend.

For 10 RP boxers, journey to China begins in Cuba

From page A1

The trip to Cuba is the centerpiece of the government "Train for Gold"—a campaign to lap boxers at the grassroots and route them so that one day the Philippines will rule Olympic boxing scenario.

Manila Caudoson Unc. Emmanuel Pihid says that while Filipino boxers like Manny Pacquiao have topped boxers in the professional ranks, their performance in the amateur category has been marked by frustration.

Grassroots program

"When you have a viable grass-roots program, when you prepare more, when you practice more, you have a chance of succeeding in any endeavor," says Pihid, the project director.

The program started with the hiring and training of coaches and the holding of tournaments in the countryside to identify boxing talents.

A panel of boxing experts, including sports editors, was tapped to select the members of the national pool of boxers, who were picked not just because they won but because of their courage, skills and physical build.

Boxing for education

All boxers in the training pool will participate in the Olympic pre-qualifying tournaments to fight for slots in the Olympic Games. The Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines was incorporated to assist the government.

Funding came from the P100,000 contribution of each of the 79 provinces supporting the program. Malacañang also earmarked a counterpart fund of P500,000.

Each boxer will receive a monthly stipend and is promised of continuing their high school or college education while training.

At the same time, the program will raise funds to guarantee an Olympic gold medal winner P5 million, silver medalist P3 million and bronze finisher P1.5 million.

Cuban coach

The circuit hired a Cuban coach, Honorato Espinosa, 61, widely known for producing Cuba's 11 Olympic gold and 48 world championships, to train the Filipinos.

Espinosa's most notable trainees were Cuba's five Olympic gold medalist in the sport, Orlando Martinez (1972), Adolfo Horta (three-time champion in 1976, 1980 and 1984) and Angel Herrera who, aside from winning the 1996 Olympic gold, also reigned supreme in the World Championships, World Cup, Pan American Games and Goodwill Games.

Espinosa's students have included Raul Fernandez Linares, who used to call the shots in the corner of Mancito Mchaca, silver medalist in the 1996 Games.

Espinosa arrived in the country in May 2003 after Pihid visited Cuba to ask the help of sports authorities to train his boxing students.

Pihid says the Philippines has won only five boxing medals since it joined the quadrennial event in 1932.

Those Olympic medal winners were Criy Villanueva (bronze), 1932 Olympics; Anthony Villanueva (silver) 1964; Leopoldo Serrano (bronze) 1988, Raul Marco (bronze) 1992, and Mansueto Velasco (silver) 1995.

"That is hardly something that we would be proud of in our 72 years of participation in the Olympics," says Pihid.

et for 1st . . .

Athens was even worse and Lopez didn't offer any alibis.

"We were well-prepared for Athens but we succumbed to many factors," he says.

The struggles of the boxers forced Lopez and his coaching staff to rethink their strategies. He laughs off claims that Abap hasn't discovered new talents.

"At present, there are 36 members of the national training pool in Baguio City. They are tall, lean, quick and have long arms, which are all attributes of international world boxers," Lopez says.

"In two years time, the young but highly experienced boxers will carry our colors proudly," he adds, rattling off the names of Jean Tipon, Genebert Bunachita, Orlando Obenque Jr. and Dollie Bolaños, among others.

Cuban example

To achieve the dream in Beijing, Lopez says that Abap continues to patterns its system after the Cuban example.

"Cuban boxing is the best in the world," Lopez says.

Abap titled Jose failed to lure Cuban coach Raul Fernandez Linares back to its fold early this year. Linares was sacked following the Sydney debacle.

Although willing to return and help share the mastery of Philippine boxing, Linares wasn't allowed by the Cuban Boxing Federation to come back.

"Raul is now in the top echelon of Cuban boxing," Lopez says. "I'm sure he has learned from his Sydney experience."

Paris Games

With Linares out available, Lopez says Abap is determined to bring in another top coach Cuban coach. "But that will happen early next year because we don't want to disrupt our Asiad preparations under Coach Pio Cayat," he says.

The Philippines first competed in the Olympics during the 1924 Paris Games. Eighteen Olympics later, it is still without a gold medal.

After all the heartaches and the rumbles, Lopez and Abap are ready to fire for gold.

in taekwondo

Members of the national team trained in Korea for several months for the Asian Games.

On the men's side are John Paul Lizardo, Tiburcio Jr. Manuel Rivera, Ximenes Jose Mendoza, Aiko Romero and Dax Alberto Abadi.

The distaff team is composed of Kristhen Eunice Abora, Loraine Loreki Catalan, Mary Antoinette Rivero, Ma. Celeshi Bersa, Nicole Elaine Abora and Richele Dimalan.

Hong says some of them have an inside track to one of the four Olympic spots.

Everybody will have a chance at being an Olympian. "The one who deserves it more will get it," Hong says.

Hong has always made it a point to be at all the meets to show support. He is a national player. And, in a glaring example of how big a role money plays in the development of athletes, such a lesson wears the PTA also.

"We house them in apartment units. We give them good food, even training and a lot of extra perks. We want to make them feel like when you are a national team member, you are king. We want them to be proud to represent the country," he says.

"We don't pay them much. Instead, we treat them differently once they've earned that spot in the national squad," he adds.

No pressure

Hong says a lot of the Olympic hopes of the country are pinned on both taekwondo and boxing, but he feels no pressure.

"We all know that in taekwondo and boxing, since they go to the Olympics, there is only one goal...the gold medal. If we win, good. If not, try again. Simple as that. No pressure. But we will go there aiming for the gold medal," Hong says.

"Otherwise, why go there at all?"

The road to the Olympics is littered with challenges. Declasions, hard work and plenty of financing will hopefully help the country get through these obstacles.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

OPINION

Radioactive

THE NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT WAS AS DISCREET as a rabo in a library: "The nuclear test was conducted with indigenous wisdom and technology 100 percent," in propagandese boasted. And the world trembled.

The timing of the blast accomplished maximum mischief. She truly have Japan's new prime minister and Chi-

EDITORIAL

na's premier just inaugurated a thaw in their previously frosty relations; the United States is distracted by political scandal and jockeying over midterm elections to determine (1) the Bush administration will be a lame duck or not.

Immediately North Korea expanded its options and limited those of the major powers in the region. Even as the Philippine government joined the rest of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations in condemning the detonation, and the world wonders what will come next, America, China and Japan are forced to confront the prospects of a regional arms race.

Impoverished, xenophobic, fanatical and unpredictable, North Korea has achieved one thing: It has virtually closed off the possibility of a resolution of its rogue nation status by force of arms. The already brittle South Korean-American alliance, which has been limping along for a decade, will undergo new stresses as the South Koreans agonize over whether to step up military preparations in tandem with its Western and regional allies, or further pursue its decades-long efforts to talk to, rather than actively confront, its North Korean neighbor.

The People's Republic of China, nominally an ideological soul mate of North Korea, and which generously subsidizes what passes for the North Korean economy, must find a way to keep diplomacy on the agenda to prevent tensions tripping its economic growth. China has no choice but to aggressively pursue its capitalist policies in its coastal cities have to serve as a magnet to attract investment—and increasingly disgruntled—citizens in the interior. To pull or even marginally slow down China's economy is to risk resentment getting out of hand in the vast inverior spaces of the country, whose citizens haven't had a taste of wealth.

Ironically, the United States and in particular, the Bush administration, may be the new beneficiary of Pyongyang's nuclear surprise. Over recent weeks, the Republican party has been anxiously mainly—and hysterically—trying to fend off the consequences of its prevarication in mutual equivocity being demolished by a sex scandal. Overnight, the headlines have shifted from domestic American concerns to issues that continue to be the Republican force: the so-called "Axis of Evil" of which North Korea is a core.

It may be true that American public opinion will zero in on the North Korean nuclear test as another grim case of Bush's chickens coming home to roost (North Korea tried, presciently on hearing knee, to negotiate with the Bush White House some years back). However, a demonstrated Republican base may be reenergized by the nuclear test and rally behind its leadership. American security analysts are already pointing to the possibility that North Korea might sell nuclear weapons, whether portable nukes or the technology to manufacture nuclear bombs, which is indeed a troubling scenario. After all, right now North Korea may have the bomb, but it lacks the means to threaten them anywhere but within its own borders.

A security-conscious region, too, must lean on it against over a possible arms race from North to East Asia, not limited to Japan. The Japanese have to decide whether to strengthen their armed forces and adopt nuclear weapons. Other nuclear-capable nations, such as India and Pakistan, may decide to strengthen their arsenals if China and Japan turn in response to North Korea or on other unilateral American action.

Some observers take pot at our fear that Philippines must now ponder its alliance with the United States, not because North Korea is capable, as of yet, of firing intercontinental ballistic missiles, but because the spread of nuclear technology for weapons purposes has grown a little more unpredictable. And also because increased spending on defense by China, Japan and South Korea will have an effect on their respective economic environments, and that includes the Philippines.

North Korea is hungry, is in desperate and reckless. The world will have to take pragmatism with compassion in judicious doses. If the big of war is to be rolled back.

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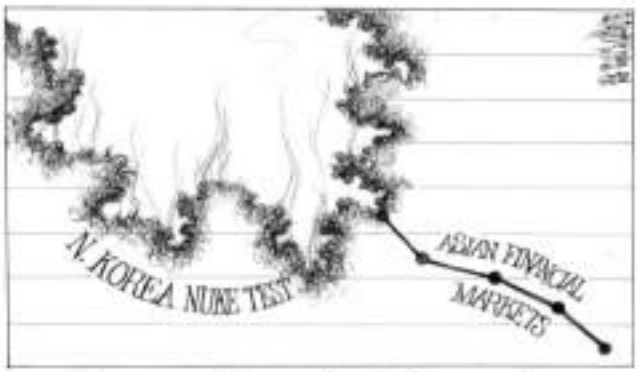

To pay or not to pay, that is the question

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

BUSINESS CIRCLES ARE TALKING ABOUT the P17 billion debt for the Philippine National Oil Corporation-Conv. (PNOC) will pay to a Hong Kong based company. The original loan was only P2.4 billion at current market rates, but after 20 years of not paying anything, it has ballooned to P17 billion. That's what happens when you don't pay your debts promptly.

I became interested about it when I was having my 1 Hegin taking questions and doing some research. This is what I have found out so far:

The original loan was incurred by a subsidiary of the PNOC but was guaranteed by the parent company. It was PNOC under Rodolfo Cuneta that constructed the North and South Luzon Expressways and the PNOC was doing high for a time. But to fortunes started to wane when President Ferdinand Marcos was driven out of power.

The original creditor, Marubeni of Japan, has tried to collect on the loan for years, with out results. Records show that the Aquit Administration Team had plans to gradually pay starting 2007, but as with most of the PNOC loans, there seem to mingled in spite of Marubeni's efforts to the contrary, overreaction to equity and other repayment modes. Interpersonal, liberalized sold to collectibles to Rudolph of Hong Kong.

Rudolph initiated serious attempts to collect in 2000. By then, unpaid interests and penalties had ballooned up to P16.2 billion. PNOC is one of many planet Rudolph and 5 countries of P10 billion.

You'd think acknowledging a debt would lead to payment, but uncreative PNOC administration tried to weasel out of their obligations. Instead of paying, they presented a petition that did not wash with the regional trial court where the collection case was being tried. Collection efforts by the creditors had never stopped, as evidenced by PNOC documents dealing with the issue of the overseas debt.

Rudolph won in the RTC and the Court of Appeals, which refused the PNOC's appeal to hold proceedings. The Supreme Court later dismissed the PNOC's attempt to block the CA ruling, although it did hit a sort of stratalemate, saying there was no proof the publicly listed firm intended to abscond with the debt.

The SC decision, issued late last year, finally prompted the PNOC to hammer out the P5-billion compromise deal, representing 1 set returns for Rudolph of around 3 percent per annum. That's not too much, considering the gravity of the country and relevant improvements.

The compromise will be good to the PNOC, too. It will settle its debt with no cash out, and get opportunistically 21 acres on the dollar, whereas a continuation of the case would likely have brought this company to ruin. A check with Atty. Peter Jarencio, PNOC's officials claimed that the PNOC is also settling other debts, including those with government agencies.

Many Filipinos are not yet familiar with the method used to bail their debts with debt papers. There is really nothing mysterious about bailouts. It is simply a way to buy time for a lot of cases after the Asian financial crisis. At that time, economies across the continent were on their knees, and company after company declared bankruptcy or defaulted on loans to their cities. Banks and governments were forced to step in to save very big banks, big, bad debtors. When their debt portfolios stitched dragging down sore businesses, these entities sold the bad debts to investment companies and special asset vehicles that our government enabled to make some sense out of the new debt mess.

PNOC their dirty pockets, three investment companies buy the debt papers at a big discount. They then collect from the debtors by offering very attractive terms, sufficient, discounts, debt swaps, accepted asset payments, etc. The difference between their bargain buying price and the amount they are able to collect is their profit, which, considering the size of the debts, is nothing to sneeze at.

But aside from deep pockets, (and sources are Rudolph is controlled by an investment fund with around $100 million in shareholders' equity), these high-finance leverage firms are characterized by grit and pickiness. As the PNOC case shows, one needs time, staunch and tough guys to collect from those who are reluctant to pay.

For example, with the compromise settlement just being announced, there comes Cuneta who, six years into the proceeding, claims the PNOC shouldn't pay the argument is weird. The PNOC is not the debtor, it is about to pay over a guarantee for its Bases Mayling loan from Marubeni. Unlike other huge banks of those from government financial institutions, this transaction was guaranteed not by the creditor but by the joint-ins creditor corporation.

Even if it were true, the reasoning is what that crippled payer of guaranty were indeed presented in the RTC, with the PNOC's former corporate secretary acknowledging these were genuine. In fact, there was little in those RTC proceedings that questioned the existence or authenticity of these loans. What was disputed then was the matter of interest rates.

In effect, what Cuneta wants is a retrial, as though such decisions were questioned. The last bit now wants to bypass the means for a retrial about months of public ownership beyond to cannot 3,000 shareholders, with the government still owning 70 percent of the corporation.

Teaching by example

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER ALAN SOMETHING I READ about preventing rape ago. A parent who keeps saying no to a child will not necessarily result that child to be disciplined and right-minded. He or she will probably just end up teaching the kid to say no to everything. That is, to become stubborn and contrary.

The principle is so simple to it is profound. Its simple is the best brother there is. How we teach to what we teach. It is the latter that parents telling him constantly not to do things will not learn not to do things. He will learn to constantly tell other people not to do things. Or put another way, he will learn how to act like his parents.

I remembered that when my daughter, already in college kids doing their share in chores. Several times I asked how I'm raised my kids, whether I'm strict or not, what values I've tried to drum into them. I've always replied that I'm no better or worse than any other parent in the land trying to raise kids. I've always replied that I've learned or, it is honesty or fairness. Where their defending others or defending yourself. But I've never been big on cramming that down their throats. Are you honest, I figure, that whatever lessons I want to impart to them I'd teach best by what I say and do. If I do not act in a life that's honest and decent, or at least that aspires to what it, nothing I say is going to make them so.

I remembered those things after reading that the clamor for investigating the shooting in the opposing camp has gotten loudest and nastier. I'm glad it has, there's hope for this country yet. At least Filipinos can still be roused up by issues to spur into of dictatorship.

But I don't have to why that "thorough investigation" (that's now mantra of public and academic officials as a harrowing for should be limited to the shooting in the meeting rooms. I don't know why that "thorough investigation," if it proves to be thorough at all, shouldn't be directed to all instances of awareness into of shooting in this country. I don't know why that "thorough investigation," if it means to be investigative at all, shouldn't aim to determine the participation, duress or indirect, active or passive, of the highest authorities of the land themselves in shooting or this country.

The point is simple. The highest officials of this country, police or private, secular or religious, are the parents or guardians of this country. They are what we teach by what they say and preach. How they act is what they teach. If they lie, cheat and steal, there is no use using against lying, cheating and stealing they can resort to the public that will be heeded. If they rail, abet and find ways to justify lying, cheating and stealing, there is no shred they can resort to the public that will deter them from lying, cheating and stealing as well.

I've said my piece about the example Gilda has set by stealing the elections. Who should the martyr think of trying to become, from that example, but to try to bribed quite close unless the person claiming to be their boss like President became to be courting votes from bribed bosses that were in our lucky that's the of trades that sank at the bottom of the sea area frustrated. Why should the rumor upset to have the results of the exams rendered null and void because some of them cheated when the person claiming to be their President refuse to have the last election declared null and void because she herself, with no small help from God, cheated her way out of the votes?

But it isn't just Gilda who is setting a bad example these. I remember again Archbishop Ramon Arguelles' breathtaking statement justifying the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' refusal to back the impeachment bid against GMA: "Bakit naman tatalikuran ng CBCP...." Ano ba'ng sabihin nito? *Bakit kung kung ang ibig sa daanan ito?*

Provided by NewspaperDirect

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Shinzo Abe's grand arrival

JAPAN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER, SHINZO ABE, has wasted little time in making his mark, particularly in foreign policy. His official visits to China and South Korea—two key neighbours with which relations suffered under the administration of Junichiro Koizumi—were within a week of his taking office and at a moment of crisis, with North Korea testing off an underground nuclear blast. Mr. Abe's meetings in Beijing with Chinese President Hu Jintao appeared to mark thaws in chilled ties and South Korea represents a welcome departure from the frustrated government's reward for policy failure: a visit to Seoul. Mr. Abe's diplomacy contrasts with Japan's heightened focus on diplomacy and security issues.

In just under emphasizing a "shift to more assertive diplomacy," Abe's policy speech cited Japan's initiative in proposing anti-terror agreements with Australia and South Korea. Beyond that, and its success in overturning, through close coordination with the United States and other countries, the resolution's unanimous adoption by the same time, he indicated his intention to evaluate Japan's overseas aid strategy to ensure that it clearly aiming Asian nations. He referred to "the Japan-US alliance for the world and for Asia."

Abe also stressed his intention to boost ties with Russia, promising cooperation with Asian countries, and develop a dynamic dialogue with Australia and India. Moreover, earlier this week with meetings in office-to-office partner-nations, seeking more stable energy supplies, and pursue political ties to membership for the UN Security Council.

Toward North Korea, on the other hand, continuity will prevail, with Abe re-emphasizing the principle that normalization of relations requires resolution of abduction cases—some dating to the 1970s—involving Japanese citizens who were seized from coastal towns. At the same time, Japan will welcome moves to resolve the issue of its role on North Korea's nuclear program.

Abe recognizes the core challenges posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, and has acknowledged the rising expectations, at home and abroad, that Japan's contributions to international security be more than just economic. He has proposed exercising the right collective self-defense so it can be used for acts—that he has called his Article 9 of Japan's Constitution—in order to maintain peace and promote efforts to the security of the Japan-US alliance. Abe says that he would "respect" the early adoption of the referendum law needed to amend the Constitution.

Abe's choice of personnel clearly reflects his focus on diplomatic and security issues. Taro Aso, Chairman, is a long-time ally, while the hawkish Yasuhisa Shiozaki, a key member of cabinet secretary

Provided by NewspaperDirect

Typhoon 'Milenyo' highlighted sorry state of our infrastructure

LETTERS

THE DESTRUCTION BROUGHT BY Milenyo exposed the weakness of our physical infrastructure system. Metro Manila can tolerate floods, traffic and air pollution. But swinging electric posts, flying roofs, crashing billboards and overturning trucks are not part of our daily hardships. They are disaster spectacles we only have to watch from a safe distance...on our television sets.

Milenyo provided a poignant reminder that our Enchanted Kingdom (formerly known as Strong Republic) rests on shaky grounds. Before crossing abysal regions, shouldn't it be a paramount concern that commuters are informed prepared to deal with disasters? An effective government ensures that the requirements of a dynamic economy—efficient transportation system, communication, power distribution and water supply—are provided, especially in emergency situations.

A strong typhoon should not be made an excuse to justify our government's unsatisfactory relief and rescue response. The Philippines is ravaged by more than 20 typhoons every year. To put it another way, we are strong typhoons for breakfast, so why do we still have a weak infrastructure system? Milenyo offers an opportunity to make the Charter change debate more relevant to the people.

If many of our countrymen are afraid of the "change the system" matter, then perhaps we should reframe the discussion on issues that really matter to our lives. For example, can Charter change prevent massive loss of lives and property every time a natural disaster hits the country? Can it straighten our roads, railways, electric posts and roads? Can it stop flooding, landslides and mudslides (or the urban ones)? Scientists have had some. Global warming will continue to wreak havoc in the future. This means seeing typhoons and long periods of drought. More people will be forced to flee their homes because of environmental disasters.

Perhaps, the key to saving more lives is not the type of governments or constitution. What we need is a responsive infrastructure, responsible private sector and united barangays. We have to resolve issues like these to be performed by communities in providing quick health and relief assistance and the prevention of looting during natural calamities. Milenyo confirmed our status as a Third World nation.

It also highlighted the sorry state of our vital infrastructure. Some may argue that we may be complaining too much—even the mighty United States could not prevent hurricane Katrina from destroying New Orleans. But if this will always be our line of reasoning, then we will never be a great nation again.

—RAYMUND PALATINO,
president, Kabataan Party,
mongpalatino@gmail.com

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete valid text and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

No flaws in Sigaw ng Bayan's petition

THE FLAWS IN SIGAW NG BAYAN'S PETition cited by Atlyte Paraiso (PDI, 9/29/06) are without basis in fact and in law.

1. There is absolutely no parallelism between the Garcia vs. Comelec case and Sigaw's petition for Charter change:

a. The recall of Garcia in 1992 was purely political. It was done by the majority of the members-Cali mayors, vice mayors, councilors of the 12 municipalities of Bataan) under the so-called Preparatory Recall Assembly provided for by the local Government Code of 1991, which has been repealed by RA 6646 in February 2004. Naturally, procedural and substantive requirements of due process dictate that all the members of the 1988 be given notice of the meeting.

b. On the other hand, the Constitution provides initiative as a privilege and right exercisable directly by the people themselves, to be initiated by a required number of signatures of voters. This does not require notice.

2. Paraiso misapplied Sec. 11 (1) of RA 6735 which requires that the petition be "signed before the election Registrar, or his designated representatives, in the presence of a representative of the proponent ..." Repeat: initiators may be established in as many places as may be warranted." The section, as its title states, refers only to initiative on local legislations or petitions "proposing to enact a regional, provincial, city, municipal or barangay law, resolution or ordinance."

Sec. 3 a, 2 of RA 6735

3. As provided for by Sec. 2, Article XIII of the Constitution and Sec. 3, par. (b) of RA 6735, a petition for an initiative on the Constitution merely requires "at least twelve per centum (12%) of the total number of registered voters as signatures, of which every legislative district must be represented by at least three per centum (3%) of the registered voters therein." Thus, both the initiative on the Constitution and national legislation require the verification of signatures of the Election Registrar (Sec. 7, RA 6735) unlike local initiatives.

In fact, the procedure proposed by Paraiso would definitely make it easier for the proponents of Cha-cha to gather the required signatures but would entail huge expenses on the part of the government, assuming that the petition for Cha-cha through a people's initiative should be signed before election registrars or their designated representatives. Certainly, those opposed to Cha-cha would not want this to happen.

4. Finally, on the verification of the signatures in the petition, there is task properly designated to election officers. If we now question the capacity of these election officers to verify the signatures of the petitioners, then we must question as well their capacity to verify all the signatures of the voters every time we have an election.

—ENRIQUE T. GARCIA JR.,
governor, Bataan

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Petron blameless in oil spill

THE IS IN REAL-ity in local buyer' letter titled "Petron guilty of dumping," PDI, 9/28/06.

The wrinkle seems as a free of guilt. The only issue is taken off. Why? The ask man knows that he is sick to carry a huge pot of cooked food to the next town, so who accept the offer? Even with all the grudging and insistence of the woman, if the sick man would not accept, there's nothing for the cook (or do). So why blame the woman?

In the oil spill of Guimaras, who blame thereat? The owner of MT Solar 1 could have simply elected to refuse the offer for he knew that the tanker was unfit to transport oil. But by done so, there would be no oil spill. Period.

—REGINA I. FONSECA,
Court of Appeals,
Cagayan de Oro City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Wednesday, October 11, 2006

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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[author block]

Across the NATION

[author block]

No pro-, anti-Red meets in churches

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—A BISHOP ASKED priests in his diocese to prevent the military and other armed groups from using chapels and churches in their villages as venues for pro- or anti-communist seminars.

Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros issued the order after he approved a recommendation by the diocesan Council of Priests in dioceses to ensure the use of places of worship as meeting places of government troops or communist guerrillas.

"Chapels, schools, and hospitals and health centers may not be used as a meeting place for indoctrination by any armed group any person who wishes to enter the chapel must leave his firearms outside," according to a statement in the diocese's weekly journal.

The diocese has at least 1,300 parishes and quasi-parishes in 22 towns and 6 key cities of Bulacan, including Valenzuela City. More than 700 village chapels have been established in the province, records showed.

Col. Bernard Custer, head of the Army's 703rd Infantry Brigade which operates in Bulacan and coastal towns, defended the military's use of the chapels, saying these were "public places."

"Churches are public places ... the priests are rarely seen in the barangays and some residents say they only visit villages on Sundays and special days," he said.

He said he would not appeal Oliveros' decision because he believed that residents of the villages were the right people to decide on the issue.

The use of chapels or churches by anticommunist seminars started during the time of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan who vowed before he retired to crush the insurgency during his tenure, but failed.

The mentioned members of Left leaders, including members of the Church, were attributed to the all-out war mounted by Palparan.

On Tuesday, political activists urged Father Jose Jose Vaz to initiate an independent investigation of the Oct. 3 killing of Aglipayan Bishop Alberto Ramento in Tarlac City.

Fernando Hicap, chair of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), said Vaz could help debunk police findings that the motives for the murder was simple robbery.

Vaz and Ramento used to work together in a panel helping the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines reach a peace agreement.

Until 2005, the governor was a member of the government's negotiating team. The bishop, on the other hand, was a third party observer to the process.

Ramento also headed the Tarlac Diocese of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (Philippine Independent Church) until his death.

The decision tried to reach Vaz for comment on Tuesday but an aide said the governor was resting in San Jose most following his arrival from a three-week business trip to the United States.

Hicap said Vaz could help bolster the findings of a private fact-finding panel headed by the Public Interest Law Center. On May 19, the panel released its report showing only one killer, not five as police had claimed.

The team said the bishop was ambushed while he was asleep. It said two "three wounds" were found on the bishop's body to make it appear that he had struggled against the attacker.

Senior Supt. Nestor Barcelona, Tarlac police director, vowed by his men's findings.

The police's crime laboratory has not yet released the results of tests seeking to find out if the bloodstains and fingerprints on the supposed weapon used, a tandem knife, matched with those of the four arrested suspects.

Tomas Pellicer, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Central Luzon, said that if Vaz agreed to call for an independent probe of the bishop's killing, this would send a signal to "death squads" to stop the spate of political killings in Tarlac and other parts of the region. Tonelle Ovejas and Carmelo Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

GRIEF Relatives, friends and human rights activists light candles at the Aglipayan Church in Manila during the wake for Aglipay Bishop Ramento who was murdered by still unidentified men in his office in Tarlac City. Ramento was the latest victim of a string of murders that are committed with impunity. Leftists activists accuse the Arroyo administration of perpetrating the murders in the course of its total war on communist guerrillas.

Market bomb blast hurts 4; Army sees JI hand in attack

DAGUPAN CITY—A BOMB HE-phided at a public market here on Tuesday, wounding four persons in what military officials said could be an attack by terrorists in retaliation for the beating of the wife of a suspect in the Bali terror attack.

One of the injured, who was not identified, was in serious condition.

Still unseen was a mere place a box near a toilet in the market, according to Supt. Jony Limson, Dagupan City police chief.

Police said the vendors alerted a guard who checked the box of chips and saw wires in it. The guard carried the box away from the crowded area of the market and was about to call police and security experts when the bomb exploded, wounding the four passersby.

The victims were brought to the Sandy Medical Clinic here. Police said they suffered shrapnel wounds.

Limson said police could not identify yet the bomb maker or determine the motive for the attack.

But Col. Felipe Tobias, commander of the Army's 702nd Infantry Brigade based in Iloilo, Tobias declared, said the attack could be the work of the Jemaah Islamiyah in retaliation for the holding of the wife of JI bomb expert Dulmatin, an Indonesian.

"This could also be part of their plan," Tobias said.

He added this aspect entered the matter inconspicuously and proceeded to buy stuff.

"There are part of their terrorist activities," said Tobias.

He said the JI initially planned to carry out the attack on Sept. 11 in time for the anniversary of the terror attack on the United States "but could not penetrate the area" because of tight security.

"This is pure terrorism," said Tobias.

Dulmatin's wife, Istiada H. Osman Sawir, was held for questioning in Pasbol, Sulu by military and immigration officials.

She confessed that Dulmatin and another JI bomb expert, Umar Patek, were still hiding on Tulai's Jolo Island, protected by the Abu Sayyaf terror group.

Dulmatin and Patek, who have bounties on their heads worth $11 million offered by the US government, have been linked to the October 2002 nightclub bombings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali which killed 202 people, mostly Australian tourists.

Sawir also informed investigators that her husband's students in bomb making became members of their Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas.

Authorities placed Central Mindanao in a state of high alert in response to reports of planned bomb attacks by terrorists.

The military, quoting intelligence reports, said at least 30 JI operatives are in Mindanao.

At least four of them, authorities said, were behind the 2002 Bali bombings.

The JI, the Southeast Asian branch of the international terror network al-Qaida, was believed to be getting sanctuary from Moro guerrillas in Mindanao, but the MILF, the biggest active Moro guerrilla group on the island, declared ceasefire providing shelter to terror suspects.

The MILF is currently negotiating a peace agreement with the government. The talks are on hold following a deadlock on territorial issue. Aquilino Pimentel and Joefflyn Abalayan, Inquirer Mindanao

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Margie Moran was informed that the province needs help for 80 schools (worth about 76 million in materials, without labor) in Sorsogon City and 96 schools in the rest of the province worth about P112 million in materials, without labor.

Margie says they may not be able to raise all the help in this case but Habitat will do what they can.

From Helen Meadows, clothing and household article.

From BEBE Trading Industrial Corporation, 30 bulkhuyan boxes of clothing and various household goods.

Checks have been deposited at Bank of the Philippine Islands (Account # 0011168701)

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For particulars, please call: Ella D. Nolasco, 646-0980; Amarena Grajo-Uranza, 928-0844, or 373-0830 and Fr. Gerard Deveza, 843-8830. Goods and items may be delivered to him at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

Watch this space Monday, Wednesday and Friday for reports on S.O.S. Sorsogon

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Hundred Islands: Birds' haven

By Yolanda Simón-Fuertes
Alaminos City

ISLAND-HOPPING AT THE HUNDRED ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK in Alaminos City in Pangasinan does not only offer a close view of the marine creatures that abound in its waters. Different species of native and migratory birds have also found haven there.

A perfect place to enjoy a picture perfect view of both water birds and forest birds

"Bird watching is a big thing around the world and bird watchers in the country are excited about the proliferation of different birds on the Hundred Islands," said Ramon Ilagan, program director of the Eco Resear Federation.

Ilagan informed Agencia de Villa of the Wild Birds Club of the Philippines about his "find." Thrilled, De Villa brought British Jon Hornbuckle, one of the world's top bird watchers, to the park to identify the species.

One cloudy day in July, De Villa, Hornbuckle, Camarines Norte Judge Irma Bonocodio, Malandia "Malaya" Palanchi, head of the boarding members of the University of the Philippines Mountaineer) and Island legion of the city government, boarded a speedboat to inspect the islands and the Alaminos River.

The adventure started on the northern

FORMADOUR grosbeak

islets where bird watchers had seen numerous rosea (Ardea dimorpha) and black naped terns.

Although there was no current sea sighted, the group was delighted to find black naped terns "flying and chirpy with other birds."

After some minutes, De Villa, in a report, said the boatmen pointed to a thick canopy on of a hole along the side of an islet...a black-naped hatchling "with a person nervously guarding (it)."

A show

The 14kg did not disappoint the bird watchers who, while going around the islets, were treated to a "show" of Philippine ducks flying or perched atop a cliff, Asian glossy starlings, Pacific swallows and sandpipers.

De Villa said an island was populated by black-crowned and yellow night herons.

"Their nocturnal disturbed, probably because of egg guarding that occurred a week earlier during which 66 eggs were taken," he said.

A major island, Kamantiles, is home to the pompadour green pigeon (Treron pompadora), white-eared brown dove, mangrove blue flycatcher, crimson-naped magpie robin, stubtails, hooded pitc, Philippine cuculo, yellow-vented bulbul and pied fantails, and Philippine bulbul.

"On two occasions, I heard distinctly a sound like a chicken's. I circled to find it but the boatmen told me I (should) look for the chicken. I was looking for a jungle fowl. I later asked the boatman if jungle fowls had been seen in the island and the boatman said there used to be plenty with (him) personally carrying some of them when this was not yet prohibited," said De Villa.

The Alaminos River, which has thickly-forested banks, is another bird sanctuary where the bird watchers counted at least 38 species.

"Little terns, black-crowned night herons,

LITTLE egret and yellow night heron atop a fish pen.

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An accidental filmmaker

By Dolmas Carino
Bagulin, Zambales

COLLEGE DROPOUT SAMUEL Dungga has never set foot on a filmmaking school, but his alter, Samiklad, has become a byword among indigenous folks in Bengaet, Ifugao and other remote villagers of the Cordillera.

Little did the 40-year-old Dungga expect that his decision to quit an education course at the University of the Cordillera in Baguio City and hone the Lutheran seminary aforesaid would immerse him in the world of filmmaking.

The native of Lun in Bagulin, Bengaet, had worked for Tim Leonard, an American preacher and bible graduate, who was connected with the Summer Institute of Linguistics.

Dungga, a father of four, was assigned the task of translating bibles into the vernacular. His job brought him to the remote villages of Bengaet, Ifugao and some parts of Mindanao. Two thoughts would lead the reluctant church worker to become a filmmaker.

One of curiosity. Dungga used Leonard's video camera to take shots of Baguio City's downtown following the 1990 earthquake.

"I did not exactly know how to use the camera. Since then I just followed how Leonard used it," he said.

His thirst of the video packed him to come up with a 50-minute video documentary in 1993. He entered his work in a contest sponsored by Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. and won the top prize of P15,000.

Serious filmmaking

Buoyed by the success of his production, Dungga, then 27, decided to go into serious filmmaking.

That same year, he produced "Hay Bendesan Cristo" (Christian Going to Heaven), which was shot in Ifugao and recruited in the vernacular.

The two-hour, eight-millimeter film becomes a certified hit, particularly among evangelical and mission workers who were then looking for alternative media to spread the gospel.

Today, Dungga has produced and directed 20 films that include stories about marital infidelity, tribal wars, family ties, seventeen employment, cultural conflicts and gospel films.

Ten of his films produced in 2006..."Tim Sangiba" (The Invoice), about a philanderling husband, and "Salbong Di Kada" (Flowers of the Mountain), about a seventeen-year-old wealth—are the most sought-after among local viewers.

Dungga's films have made viewers cry and

"SAMIKLAD" readies for a shoot using his high-definition movie camera in his home studio in Bagulin City.

their CD copies have been sold out. Those have also reached indigenous communities in Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela and Cagayan.

Perhaps a testament to the popularity of the films was the interest of film pirates to reproduce and distribute his works.

Dungga says only one camera, a high definition Sony Handycam Hybrasm, thought to be the first in the province, has been acquired worth $30,000 or his home studio in Mina-Yaw in Bagulin. He got his equipment from volunteer groups of Leonard's Video Mission International when he brought his films for validation in seven (7) mass years ago.

Dungga has no stable of actors. He sometimes hires cast from the community where he will shoot. He is not particular with props, cinematography, subplots or other features typical of a Hollywood or Philippine movie.

Message

"What is important is the message," he said.

His plots are drawn from the experiences of people in the community, he said.

Before film work, Dungga gathers his cast, refines the story, and assigns the roles of actors and actresses. There is no script. Being an actual video, he just tells the performers what to say and points the camera and recording.

It takes him a week to complete shooting, but the films will be released only a month later due to post-production work.

Dungga's films are patronized because they are in the vernacular, Pastor Herman Dinondo, 33, of the Banaue Evangelical Church in Ifugao, said. "The actors are local and so are the locations. The old folks like it because they easily identify themselves with the characters," he said.

Provided by NewspaperDirect

DENR warns vs reuse of contaminated drums

LUCENA CITY—THE DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) prevented the reuse of a color coding system to warn people against the reuse of drums that originally contained toxic industrial wastes.

Roberto Hamo, director of the Environment Management Bureau of the DENR's southern Tagalog office, said the color coding scheme, if approved, should be enforced nationwide.

"Using these contaminated drums is dangerous to the health of the public," he said in a phone interview.

Licensed recyclers of hazardous wastes are not supposed to dispose of these drums after one recycling or reuse, he said. "They have to use it again and again until it has fully served its purpose."

The sale of drums disposed of by factories is common but Hamo said this was dangerous.

The DENR and an environmentalist group two weeks ago found two dumps in Candelaria and Sariaya where hundreds of plastic and steel drums that contained toxic industrial wastes.

Some of the containers bore skull and bone warning signs, indicating their contents were toxic.

Workers at the dump said they got the drums for free from recyclers of the Clean Earth Solutions International Inc. (CESI), a licensed waste recycler in San Pablo City, on condition that they be the ones in dispose of the drums.

The environmentalist group Tanggol Kalikasan said each drum's capacity was 200 Liters.

Hamo said the DENR would call a meeting with licensed recyclers in Southern Tagalog to stop the practice of selling contaminated drums for household water.

Thirty-one cities from backforest municipalities nearby waste areas in the region.

The DENR issued a cease and desist order to the CESI and padlocked its gates while it was being investigated for violations of environmental laws.

Engineer Salvador Llave Jr., technical manager of the plant, said the plant did not receive any time. He said the drums found at the two dumps were stolen from the plant.

Hamo said the CESI offered to clean up the dumps.

But lawyer Ami Nera, executive director of TK, said the CESI should not be absolved of criminal liability by its cleanup operation.

"Cleaning the place is not absolution," said Nera.

"With their gross incompetence, that part of the province and Mauve Bukidnon is now the main depository of an estimated 500,000 liters of different kinds of hazardous wastes," Nera said. —Rey Mc Mar Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Duterte dared: Name mayor in drugs

COMPOSTELA CITY—ALL 20 TOWN MAYORS of Maguindanao have dared Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte to identify the town mayor whom he said was caught in possession of 3.5 kg of shabu last month.

Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Jr. had a meeting with all the mayors on Oct. 5 to verify Duterte's claim that a "Catholic mayor" was caught transporting illegal drugs using an ambulance a month ago.

Ampatuan said the town mayor was immediately released after his arrest. Duterte also refused to name the policemen who made the arrest.

But Lt. Colonel Jose Emmanuel Pillod took up the cudgels for Duterte to clarify that Duterte hailed Maguindanao, not Cotabato.

"I talked to Mayor Duterte and he told me he was referring to the three-region Cotabato prior to its division (creating Maguindanao)," said Pillod, who also declined to name who that mayor was.

Maguindanao town mayors challenged Duterte to identify the mayor.

"It's about time Mayor Duterte should spill the beans because all of us here become suspects," said Datu Rudiel Mora Town Matrics.

All the mayors denied the accusation.

Datung Mayor Saldi Abas said he was willing to reveal before the Bureau to prove that he is not the one being alluded to in the meantime that were circulating.

"I'm being referred to as Mayor the first but where is no truth to it," Abas said.

"Anyways, anywhere, I'm willing to be investigated if that's what they want just to prove that I am not the one being alluded to by Mayor Duterte," Abs said.

"Allah knows and I can't for especially we that we are in the fasting month of Ramadan," he added.

Charlie Getino, Inquirer Mindanao

Firm fined P10,000 for spill

BRAVO CITY—A firm was fined P10,000 for spilling caustic soda into river in Pasuer, Batangas.

The Coast Guard's Marine Environmental Protection Unit said it imposed the fine on the Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. (MVC) after it found that one of the firm's workers failed to clear a valve through which the caustic soda poured and spilled into the bay on Sept. 23 at the Batangas Bay Terminal Inc.

It was the second spill to hit the area in three months. In June, several hundred liters of **solvent** acid spilled into the bay from the Petrol Shipping.

The spills prompted fish traders to pull out investments, according to officials, as consumers refused to buy fish coming from the bay. Jonathan Alexander Lencha, Inquirer Southern Luzon

The UP SCINTILLA JURIS FRATERNITY will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Oct. 14 2006 6pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ortigas Avenue Quezon City.

All SCINTILLANS are enjoined to attend this grand affair.

For details, please contact:

Bimbay Garduce - 09177913457

Joey Villamor - 6321328

Gerry Abesamis - 09178587254

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Cheap onion imports killing local growers

By Cynthia D. Balana

IMPORTED ONION: Less than a centavo per kilo.

INTERNAL REVENUE COMMISSIONER JOSE Mario Buñag and Finance Secretary Margarito Teves met with a group of onion farmers yesterday and pledged to go after illegal importers of onions for the country.

In a meeting on Monday, onion farmers from Nueva Ecija complained to the two top economic officials about the almost decade-long illegal importation of onions, which runs to millions of metric tons, that is slowly killing local onion growing.

The importation cost of the product was reported at less than one centavo per kilo but the importers sell these onions from P20 to P40 per kilo in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, the farmers said. They also believe there has been gross underdeclaration of importation costs.

Buñag assured them that local growers/traders would be enlisted to check the problem and to enhance tax collection efforts of the government.

Teves, on the other hand, instructed the BIR to conduct a tax compliance verification drive and tax mapping operations on identified illegal onion importers and exporters. He also issued joint orders to the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and instructed them to undertake relevant proceedings against violators.

Teves said the finance department would also look into the possible involvement of government officials in these illicit operations.

Buñag said that revenue field officials immediately checked on the tax compliance of onion importers and exporters operating in Metro Manila for possible tax evasion activities. Tax-collection and evaluation of the importers' operations were carried out in respect of business places in Tondo, Malabon, Navotas, Quiapo, Muntinlupa, Caloocan, Novaliches, Pasig, Makati, Mercurella, Marikina and Cabanatuan City.

The preliminary report on tax mapping undertaken by the BIR showed that majority of identified onion importers and exporters failed to file their business tax returns for 2004 and 2005, while others failed to file their returns in 2002 and 2003. Also, some did not have the required Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), while others claimed a "tax-exempt" status.

Some onion importers and exporters had also been found to be engaged in other businesses, like, quarrying and selling marine vehicle parts.

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P38-B shortfall in revenue seen

By Philip C. Tabeza

THE GOVERNMENT COULD miss its 2007 revenue target by as much as P38.3 billion because of slower economic growth and loopholes in the tax collection system, a congressional think tank said yesterday.

The shortfall is seen to come even if government is expected to surpass its revenue targets in 2006 by P16.8 billion, the Congressional Planning and Budget Department (CPBD) said in a paper cited "Financing the 2007 Budget."

The expected 2007 revenue shortfall endangers the government target of achieving a balanced budget by 2008 and securing funds for infrastructure and social services, particularly President Macapagal-Arroyo's program to create five "super regions" that would lead development.

According to the President's 2007 budget message, "higher revenues will help reduce borrowings which in turn will enable the government to spend more in the super regions, education and health."

Lower than projected

However, CPBD simulation studies indicate that the 2007 revenue target of P1.1 trillion may not be achieved because of "lower than-projected revenue effort and GDP (gross domestic product) growth."

The CPBD said the government was likely to exceed its revenue goal in 2006 not from efficiency in tax collections, but from the revenue windfall from the increase in oil prices and the income of the Bureau of Treasury.

It said that tax collection estimates for 2007 hinged on real GDP growth and improvements in implementation of tax laws.

If the economy does not grow at 5.7 to 6.5 percent, as announced in the 2007 proposed budget, and loopholes in tax administration are not attended to, the government would likely miss its revenue goal by as much as P37.2 billion to P38.3 billion, the CPBD said.

The P39.1 billion figure assumes 16.3 percent revenue effort and 5.3 percent GDP growth. The P38.3 billion figure assumes 16.1 percent revenue effort and 4.7 percent GDP growth.

The CPBD said it expects GDP to grow by 4.7 to 5.3 percent instead of the government target of 5.7 to 6.5 percent because of the prospects of slower growth in Japan and the United States which "may retard export growth" and threat of the El Niño weather phenomenon which could depress agricultural production.

It also took into consideration domestic concerns like the 2007 elections and other political uncertainties.

The CPBD said that if the revenue shortfall reaches P38.3 billion, this would translate into a fiscal deficit of P181.3 billion, or 1.3 percent of GDP.

Turning the deficit

The government has committed itself to turning the budget deficit in last than one percent of GDP to achieve a balanced budget by 2008.

Failure to realize the revenue target would mean resorting to more borrowings "unless such disbursements are kept within tolerable limits to project a good bottom line," the CPBD said.

It said that the expected total government borrowing for 2007 could even be higher than the P199.9 billion that government projected "because what was reflected in the government's Financing program is already net of loan monetizing thereby the year-end contribution to the bond clearing fund."

Actually, total borrowings could amount to P1.02 trillion, the CPBD said.

"Government spending that could support development programs has been stymied owing to poor tax collections and debt overhang. It is important, therefore, to sustain fiscal reforms that could enhance resource mobilization," the congressional think tank said.

It said that the policy issues that confront that foreign administration for fiscal year 2007 involve finding "creative" ways to provide public goods, improving investment climate, increasing productivity and securing the gains of reform measures.

Aplus METRO

GOING DOWN
Workers from the Department of Public Works and Highways started dismantling several billboards along Edsa yesterday. Typhoon "Milenyo" toppled many huge outdoor ads in the Metro.

Judge suspended for child abuse

'Stop hearing cases until cleared'

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT HAS SUSPENDED Caloocan Regional Trial Court Judge Adoracion Angeles who had been contested for child abuse by a Quezon City court on July 17.

The high court said Angeles would be suspended "from performing her judicial functions while awaiting the final resolution of her criminal cases or until further orders from the court."

Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco had earlier asked the high tribunal to stop the judge from hearing cases until she is cleared of the child abuse charges.

Judge Angeles now stands convicted on two counts of crime, child abuse under Republic Act 7610, which involves moral turpitude. Until she clears her name of such conviction, her current moral qualification to do the work of a judge is under serious cloud," he said.

Velasco added, "Litigants seeking justice in our courts are entitled to a hearing by judges whose moral qualifications are not placed in serious doubt."

Angeles was charged with two counts of child abuse in 1999 by a teenage girl who had worked as a maid in the judge's household.

Hold graft case filed in Sandigan, Binay asks

By Tarra V. Quismundo

MAKATI MAYOR JEJOMAR BINAY HAS ASKED the Sandiganbayan to suspend the proceedings on a graft case filed against him and several other city officials over an alleged scam involving the purchase of office furniture from 1999 to 2001.

In a petition filed on Monday, Binay, along with six of his coaccused, said there were "clear indicators" when the case special fiscals was returned to the assigned courts. He added that the case was the result of a "piecemeal investigation" the Ombudsman had conducted based on a public Commission on Audit report.

"Until the Ombudsman finishes the investigation in its entirety, any and all proceedings [on the case] before this Honorable Court such as, and starting with, the determination of probable cause for purposes of determining the propriety of issuing warrants of arrest, should be held in abeyance," the mayor's motion read.

The graft case lodged against Binay, wife Elenita—who was Makati mayor at the time of the purchase—four city officials and five others was based on a complaint filed by Binay's political rival, Roberto Brillantes.

Brillantes filed the complaint after a COA report found alleged irregularities in the purchase of P221 million worth of office furniture for the new Makati City Hall from 1999 to 2001. The report said the bidding was allegedly rigged to favor certain companies, while the furniture purchased was overpriced by over P53 million.

One gun killed two men—PNP

By Alcuin Papa

ONLY ONE GUN WAS USED TO KILL FORMER communist leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman and Hilda Glang, the security chief of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, according to the Philippine National Police (PNP).

This led Director Marcelo Ela, chief of the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM), to conclude that Glang's killing last Sept. 16 was most likely perpetrated by the left.

He said a "cross-matching" conducted by the PNP Crime Laboratory on the .45 slug recovered from the Glang murder revealed that it was fired from the same gun used in the killing of Lagman. "There is a big possibility that [Glang murder] was carried out by the Left," he added.

Glang was also dead in Taguig City by still unidentified gunmen. Lagman, on the other hand, was gunned down in February 2001 on the University of the Philippines, Diliman campus. Both cases remain unsolved.

Provided by NewspaperDirect

Politicians' billboards next on DPWH list

By Leila B. Salaverria and Nikko Dizon

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND Highways yesterday began dismantling billboards on Edsa, starting with the 33 outdoor ads posted alongside tracks of the Metro Rail Transit 3 line and in its 13 stations.

Billboards, however, are not the only roadside structures on the department's list. It added that politicians' advertisements, electric posts and transmission lines that encroach on the road right-of-way are the next to go.

The DPWH has been demanding illegal and hazardous billboards on national thoroughfares in compliance with President Macapagal-Arroyo's administrative order after Typhoon "Milenyo" knocked down many billboards in Metro Manila on Sept. 28.

Emmanuel Dumanig, director of the DPWH's National Building Code Development Office, said the department would start with the big outdoor advertisements located in MRT terminals, and later, the billboards beside the tracks and posts.

Based on the DPWH's inventory, there are 2,161 billboards in Metro Manila. Of the total, only 431 have been cleared by the department as far as structural integrity with 273 recommended for dismantling.

"The safety of our people is our top priority, so will never let another life be lost due to illegal structures built within the boundaries of our national roads," Gloria said.

He urged the public to send their complaints about public works by texting 2920 following the format: DPWH (space) (message type) (space) name.

Elduayan said the complaints would be forwarded to concerned officials who would be given three days to take action.

The numerous advertising billboards on the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) should also be torn down because they pose a danger to the airport, Mitsuru Gui, Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) chief said yesterday.

"It's also urgent that the billboards on SLEX be removed, not only those on Edsa," Gui said in a phone interview.

He expressed concern that should another strong typhoon like Milenyo hit Metro Manila, debris from the billboard's supposedly could be blown into runways of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Nia).

Sec. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, meanwhile, warned that some policemen were preserving officials from the DPWH and local governments from demolishing billboards.

Mr Arroyo has certified Santiago's Anti-Billboard Blight Act as urgent. The bill regulates the placement of outdoor ads nationwide.

Expect heavy traffic caused by outdoor ads dismantling

By Tarra V Quismundo

NASHING: REMOVING BILLBOARDS could lead to heavy traffic.

The team of no all-out crackdown on billboards on Edsa led to traffic nearly snarling, an announcer that motorists should expect for the duration of the Department of Public Works and Highways' clearing operations along the major thoroughfare.

Motorists traveling on the northbound lane found themselves crawling at a snail's pace, with the traffic building 4 kilometers from Magallanes to Makati to Santolan in Quezon City.

According to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) Metro Base, traffic slowed down to a crawl on the northbound lane at a few minutes past 8 a.m. after the DPWH and MMDA clearing crews started tearing down billboards at stations of the Metro Rail Transit 3 railway system.

"This is for the safety of motorists, instead of seeing billboards collapse on the road right-of-way, those should be removed. We have been seeing for days for a long time and we should not wait for anything to happen," said Angelina Sergel de Dios, MMDA Traffic Operations Center executive director.

He added that the clearing operations would continue "until there are no more illegal billboards.

"For as long operations are on going we fix on, these they would expect this (kind of traffic) every day.

"But once operations move to illegal billboards on private property, then traffic won't be as affected."

Based on field reports, the clearing operations began near Pasteur's Market in Cubao at 6:30 a.m., in Guadalupe a witness later, on Edsa corner Pioneer in Mandaluyong City at 8:00 a.m., at the intersection of Gil Puyat (Buendia) Avenue in Makati City at 9:30 a.m., on Edsa corner Timog Avenue at 9:27 a.m., and in Guadalupe at 9:30 a.m.

The simultaneous tearing down operations were part of the national government's campaign to remove hazardous billboards on sea ge roads following the collapse of at least 40 billboards when Typhoon "Milenyo" roared through Metro Manila on Sept. 26.

"Operations really have to be done in the morning as they would be more dangerous to conduct at night (when traffic is not that heavy), because that would mean workers lighting and it would be more risky in those who go up the billboards," Abrigo de Dios said.

Proof needed to find cause of suspect's death in Caloocan jail

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) will ask the Northern Police District (NPD) to submit physical evidence to help them determine whether the death of a suspect caught in the gunfight in the robbery and murder of a television commentator was intentional or accidental.

Lawyer Reynaldo Esmeralda, deputy director for regional operations service, said he has tasked NBI National Capital Region chief Raul Lozada to head the investigation of the death of Ernesto Magnayon, the alleged gunman in the killing of BPO 9 newsmaker Ralph Rubio.

Magnayon was allegedly shot by Jail Officer 2 Ricardo Zabarte, a visiting jail guard, around noon Saturday inside the Caloocan City Jail where the victim was detained.

Zabarte claimed his service firearm went off as he tried to place it under his pillow while the victim was sleeping from a misstep.

"It is only prudent that an impartial investigation be conducted by the NBI," Esmeralda said, adding that the bureau would subpoena Zabarte.

Esmeralda said the NBI would also conduct an inspection of the jail facility where the incident happened.

The NBI stepped into the case upon the request of Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Metropolitan Police District director, "to erase any impression of a cover-up."

Magnayon and two policemen, Chief Insp. Bryan Charles and SPO1 Hendrick de Guzman, who were also linked to the Rubio case, were detained in the same facility. Zabarte was there to visit his colleagues.

Before his death, Magnayon was reported to be ready to admit to the crime and testify against the two policemen, according to sources. Magnayon's family had asked Malacañang for the court to let the NBI handle the investigation of the case against him, Bataoil said.

MetroBriefs

Man killed in road mishap

A MAN was killed while three others were injured after a sports utility vehicle fell off the highway in Pasay City and hit a pedestrian yesterday. Lt. Venancio Aquino, operations officer of the Air Force General Hospital in Villamor Air Base, identified the victim as Abner Dilanan. Injured were company passengers Nathan and Imelda Santos and the driver of the truck, Ernesto Tanding. Dilanan, who was pronounced at the back of the emergency room, died of severe head injuries, said Aquino. Tanding said he was traveling on the southbound lane of the Skyway when a Toyota Tamaraw bumped his vehicle at around 7:30 a.m. The impact sent the truck's front crashing through the railings. It then fell off the 14-foot high flyover and landed on the ground, he added.

Jocelyn R. Ty

Antipest drive launched

THE DAVAO Region is dengue prone. It is the "Sitio Pesto" campaign of Mayor Sara Duterte proves successful, the municipality would soon be free of mosquitoes, flies, cockroaches and rats. Sitio Kimpo formally launched a two-month campaign to curb dengue and the spread of other diseases carried by pests. The campaign, which would run for 60 days and is open to all Mandaue residents, offers cash prizes to the person who has killed the most number of rats, mosquitoes, flies and cockroaches. The first prize winner would receive P5,000, followed by P2,000 and P1,000 for the second and third prize winners, respectively. Duterte said the contest aims to help residents develop the habit of cleaning their homes and surroundings. Participants should bring the pests they killed to the municipal health office where an authorized representative from the municipal sanitation office would count them.

Romeo C. Estrupit

Did you know

THE BANAL of Science High School was founded without any classes. It was the winner in a resolution signed by then Mayor Antonio Villegas. Four years later, in November 1968, a class of 22 four-hundred students had already been housed in the mansion of the future science high school. Today's students are marking the 38th year of "Mabait," as the graduates fondly refer to it, functionalist 1968 in the current location in Ermita. Cyril J. Amatemic Joyner-Tamayo

Provided by NewspaperDirect

Iran warns of retaliation if UN imposes sanctions

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's top nuclear negotiator said Tuesday that Tehran would retaliate if the U.N. Security Council imposes sanctions over Iran's disputed nuclear program, but he also said the country is willing to resume talks with the West.

Ali Larijani, who is refusing to meet Western demands to suspend uranium enrichment, said Iran could withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and resume full-scale nuclear activities if it is referred to the Security Council.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson called the negotiations after the Israeli-Iranian missile, an open but unspoken desire of meeting an explicit confrontation of Pyongyang's actions.

"Iran's position is clear: we have no interest in pursuing weapons," Mohammad Ali Hosseini was quoted as saying by a state-run news agency.

"Iran is hopeful that negotiations on North Korea's nuclear activities can go ahead in the interest of both North Korea and the international community," he added.

In a morning last on Friday representatives from Britain, China, Germany, France, Russia and the United States agreed to discuss sanctions against Iran after it refused to meet a new deadline to halt uranium enrichment.

Considerable momentum rose in drafting a sanctions resolution as early as this week, approved on terms Iran granted by the morning between top diplomats in London after weeks of talks with Iran failed to win a breakthrough. AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

40 bodies found in Baghdad

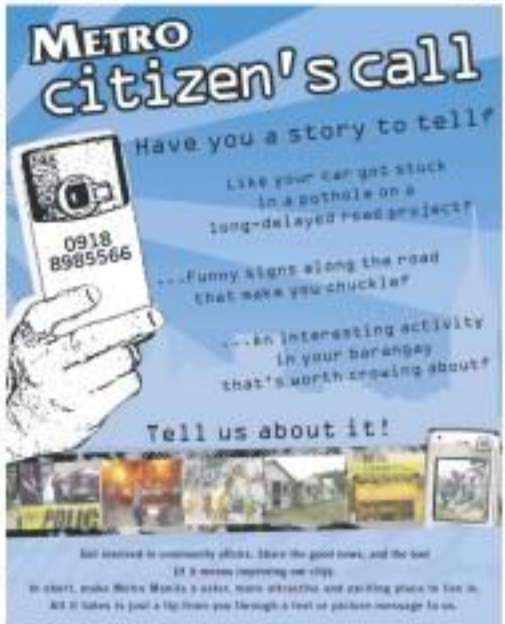
BAGHDAD — Authorities found five mutilated bodies of 40 men in Baghdad in the 24 hours ending Tuesday morning, from the latest victims of the sectarian death squads that roam the capital. The bullet-riddled bodies of half their hands and feet bound and showed signs of torture — hallmarks of death squad killings, police Lt. Lt. Mohamed Khayat said. The victims ranged in age from between 20 to 50 years old, he said. The bodies had been dumped in several neighborhoods of the capital. Sectarian death squads have killed thousands in recent months and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has pledge to increased pressure to find an end to the violence. AP

Murder clouds Putin visit

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin is likely to face awkward questions about the murder of a leading journalist during a two-day visit to Germany which is hoped will further Russian business interests in Europe. Putin flies into Dresden, the east German city where he served as a KGB agent in the 1980s, to be joined with Chancellor Angela Merkel but will include business deals and Merkel's concerns about the backsliding of Russian democracy. Merkel, a Russian-speaker and the first chancellor from the ex-communist East Germany, is expected to raise western concerns about the contract-style killing of the journalist Anna Politkovskaya, a Kremlin investigative journalist and prominent Putin critic. Reuters

Brother of Iraq's VP killed

BAGHDAD — Gunmen in camouflage uniforms killed the brother of Iraq's Sunni Arab Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi on Monday, drawing sharp condemnations from across Iraq's political divide, and sowing fresh fears of sectarian bloodletting. Hashemi's biggest Sunni political group blamed militias and was not it could jeopardize Shiite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's plan to reconcile warring Shiites and Sunni Arabs. Lt. Gen. Anwar al-Hashemi, a senior Defense Ministry adviser, was the third of Hashemi's siblings killed since April. Gunmen also killed his sister and another brother. Reuters



The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ibanez

UN Security Council chooses Ban Ki-moon as next UN chief

BAN

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN Security Council on Monday nominated South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon to succeed Secretary General Kofi Annan, in an announcement overshadowed by North Korea's first nuclear weapons test.

In Seoul, earlier that capping unbridled air of incredulity, Ban struck a somber note following the announcement by North Korea that it had succeeded in an underground atomic test.

"This should be a moment of joy. But instead, I stand here with a very heavy heart," Ban told a press conference.

"Despite the concerted warnings from the international community, North Korea has gone ahead with a nuclear test," he said.

"With this act of provocation, North Korea has discarded its obligations under the Joint Statement adopted at the six-party talks in September last year and directly challenged UN Security Council Resolution 1695," Japan's UN envoy Kenzo Oshima, UN council president for October, read out a statement that also urged North Korea "to refrain from further testing" and return to its talks with the Chinese capital, while also issuing a "strong and swift" response.

Oshima called "a very serious matter" and "a threat to international peace and security in the region." Shortly after the 15-member Security Council formally endorsed Ban by acclamation, it convened in closed door consultations to agree a response to North Korea's brazen defiance of a council resolution Friday urging it not to go ahead with the test.

Meanwhile, the man whom Ban is to replace, Secretary General Kofi Annan, also expressed deep concern over North Korea's nuclear weapons test, calling for stalled six-nation talks on Pyongyang's nuclear program to resume without delay.

Ban, a 62-year-old career diplomat, was the only remaining candidate for the coveted, high-profile job after six other contenders withdrew following the South Korean's foreign minister's thirteen-nerve-to-hour rehearsal-straw poll in the council.

Under the UN charter, the 192-member General Assembly elects the secretary general upon the recommendation of the council.

Oshima said he asked the president of the General Assembly "for prompt steering of the appointment process." The assembly is likely to schedule a vote later this month.

Ban would then take office next January after Annan, a Ghanaian, steps down after having completed two five-year terms. AFP

PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Name of Project	a.	Supply, Delivery and Installation of Medical Equipment for the Veterans Memorial Medical Center
Approved Budget for the Contract		P 840,000.00
Delivery Period		Sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed
Name of Project	b.	Various Medical Devices Laboratory Supplies, Materials and Reagents for the Year 2006
Approved Budget for the Contract		P 2,250,000.00
Delivery Period		One (1) calendar year from receipt of Notice to Proceed
Name of Project	c.	Microbiological Culture Media for the Medical Laboratory
Approved Budget for the Contract		P 1,165,000.00
Delivery Period		Sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed
Name of Project	d.	Medical Laboratory Supplies and Reagents for the Year 2006
Approved Budget for the Contract		P 600,000.00
Delivery Period		Sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed

2. Prospective bidder should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project cost. The Philippine Government Procurement Law, the Philippine Government Procurement Reform Act (RA 9184) and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR) shall govern the conduct of the bidding. Post-qualification of the bidder calculated bid shall be conducted.

3. All interested bidders may obtain further information and bid documents from the Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee, Executive Office, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, 8 F. PCSO Bldg., Mabini St., Ermita, Manila and inspect the bid documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting October 11, 2006 and up to October 25, 2006.

4. The Committee shall evaluate bids on an item basis, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
PROJECT A: SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER	
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 11 to 25, 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	October 16, 2006 (10:00 a.m.) Conference Room, 8/F Main Building
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	10:00 AM of November 2, 2006
4. Opening of Bids	10:00 AM of November 2, 2006
5. Bid Evaluation	November 2 to 3, 2006
6. Post-Qualification	November 3 to 6, 2006
7. Issuance of Notice of Award	November 7, 2006
PROJECT B: VARIOUS MEDICAL DEVICES, LABORATORY SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND REAGENTS FOR THE YEAR 2006	
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 11 to 25, 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	October 16, 2006 (10:00 a.m.) Conference Room, 8/F Main Building
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	10:00 AM of November 2, 2006
4. Opening of Bids	10:00 AM of November 2, 2006
5. Bid Evaluation	November 2 to 3, 2006
6. Post-Qualification	November 3 to 6, 2006
7. Issuance of Notice of Award	November 7, 2006
PROJECT C: SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER	
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 11 to 25, 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	October 16, 2006 (10:00 a.m.) Conference Room, 8/F Main Building
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	10:00 AM of November 2, 2006
4. Opening of Bids	10:00 AM of November 2, 2006
5. Bid Evaluation	November 2 to 3, 2006
6. Post-Qualification	November 3 to 6, 2006
7. Issuance of Notice of Award	November 7, 2006
PROJECT D: SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER	
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 11 to 25, 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	October 16, 2006 (10:00 a.m.) Conference Room, 8/F Main Building
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	10:00 AM of November 2, 2006
4. Opening of Bids	10:00 AM of November 2, 2006
5. Bid Evaluation	November 2 to 3, 2006
6. Post-Qualification	November 3 to 6, 2006
7. Issuance of Notice of Award	November 7, 2006

5. Bid Documents for each project will be available only at the address indicated upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) per project, to the PCSO Treasury Department.

6. All Bids must be addressed to the Office of the General Manager, Attn: Atty. Jose C. Lorenzo, Jr., and Bid Bulletin, PCSO Compound 2, Mabini St., Ermita, Manila and received at 2nd Floor Main Building, PCSO Compound 2, Mabini St., Ermita, Manila on or before the deadline for submission.

7. The PCSO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept the bid most advantageous to the government. Failure of the bidder to submit any of the requirements mentioned in this advertisement or the bid documents shall be a ground for disqualification of the bid.

(Sgd.) ROSARIO U. URRUTIA
Chairman/Manager

Interim Thai PM pledges to lift martial law ASAP

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S INTERIM PRIME MINISTER on Tuesday said his government would lift martial law "as soon as we can," adding that repairing the country's image was a priority after last month's coup drew widespread international condemnation.

"We will lift martial law as soonas we can and before the situation is normal," said Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont, who was appointed by the military after the Sept. 19 coup that ousted Thaksin Shinawatra.

"I promise it will not be long."

Surayud made the comments to reporters during a break from his first Cabinet meeting, a day after the junta was sworn in by King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The country's interim lawmaker urged the Cabinet on Monday to work with honesty as the country tries to move beyond a political scandal that led to the overthrow of ex-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, and to help restore Thailand's democratic credentials.

During the Cabinet meeting, ministers raised the issue of lifting martial law with the Council for National Security, as the coup leaders call themselves.

"We value the freedom of people and civil liberties," Surayud said.

Western nations and human rights groups denounced the coup as a setback to democracy and have urged the interim government to quickly lift restrictions imposed by the military, including curbs on press freedom and limits on public gatherings and political assembly.

Martial law was imposed immediately after the coup.

The king acknowledged the criticism for the first time as he spoke in the Cabinet Monday.

"Many people are saying bad things about this people," the king said. "Foreigners say that Thailand is not good. So we have to correct that. If we don't correct it, the reputation of our country will be bad."

The king also noted that many Thais were suffering from flooding that started with the rainy season in August and intensified recently in the aftermath of typhoon Xangsane. At least 70 people have died from flood-related causes since August and 130,000 others have been temporarily somewhere displaced.

Surayud said the Cabinet will focus on both matters.

"The ministers will take the king's advice on correcting the image of the country in the eyes of foreigners," Surayud said, adding that the government will also focus on helping flood victims.

He also said he was dispatching his new interior minister, Aree Wong-araya, to one of the hardest hit areas in the flooding.

"The most urgent task is to help people suffering from flooding," he said, noting the provinces of Ang Thong and Singburi in central Thailand, where streets remained submerged in floods.

Surayud's government is expected to stay in place for about a year until a new constitution is written and elections can be held.

The military ousted Thaksin while he was on an official trip to attend the UN General Assembly in New York. Thaksin was widely accused of corruption and abuse of power, and the military cited what it said was his antagonizing the allegations. He has now returned to Thailand since the coup, opting instead to stay at an apartment in eastern London. AP

Google buys YouTube for $1.65B

SAN FRANCISCO—WEB SEARCH leader Google Inc. said on Monday it agreed to acquire top video sharing website YouTube Inc. for $1.65 billion in stock, the highest price yet paid for a consumer-generated media site.

The first deal to usher one of the new generation of user-participation Web sites at more than $1 billion continues two of the most popular Internet brands: Google, synonymous with Web search and rapid investment, and YouTube, a Silicon Valley upstart that has spread beyond the video-sharing craze.

YouTube, which grew in 18 months from a start-up in a garage to now serve 100 million videos daily, has drawn scrutiny from major media companies for copyrighted television and movie videos that users post without owners' consent.

While YouTube said on Monday it had signed a spate of deals to licensing agreements with major record labels, students say Google could still be settling lawsuits with its acquisition. Reuters

Polls show Democrats with big lead

WASHINGTON—Democratic candidates have a big edge as Republicans one month before elections to decide control of Congress, a flurry of new polls said on Monday with Foreign Policy President George W. Bush and Congress dropping after the Capitol Hill scandals.

A USA Today/Gallup poll gave Democrats a 23-point edge on Republicans in the battle for Congress, while a CNN poll gave Democrats a 11-point lead.

An ABC News/Washington Post poll found Democrats held a 14-11 percent lead in the congressional ballot race among registered and likely voters, which ABC said was the biggest Democratic lead that close to election day in more than 20 years.

And a new CBS News/New York Times poll showed 79 percent of respondents thought Republican leaders were more concerned with politics than with the well-being of the average man, prompted statements who received brief messages from former Republican Rep. Mark Foley of Florida.

Republicans, already battered by public doubts about the Iraq war and Bush's leadership, have been scrambling to contain the fallout from the unfolding sex scandal and keep it from stifling their chances on Nov. 7.

Democrats must pick up 15 House seats and six Senate seats to reclaim control of Congress.

Several recent polls have shown declining approval ratings for Republicans in the last week amid a current of questions about the Iraq war and President Bush's leaders handled the Foley matter.

The CNN poll found 52 percent believed Republican House of Representative Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois should resign, while 39 percent said he should not. Hastert announced his resignation.

The CBS poll found two-thirds of voters said the Foley scandal would make little difference in how they cast their ballots, but 21 percent said it would make them more likely to vote Democratic. Reuters

US professor wins Nobel Prize for Economics

PHELPS

NEW YORK—AMERICAN Edmund Phelps took the 2006 economics Nobel on Monday for work in the 1960s on the link between unemployment and inflation that economists say shapes the way central banks formulate monetary policy today.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said the Columbia University professor won for challenging the assumption that policymakers could rely on unemployment in the long run by stimulating demand. The award recognized an American among of all the Nobels so far this year.

Phelps, 73, who earns neither a house nor a car, showed that cutting taxes or rates would give only a short-term boost to employment and create higher inflation down the road.

"In the case of inflation policy, I thought avoiding up the employment level at the cost of... higher inflation is a bit like eating your seeds corn in the winter and losing future crops," Phelps told reporters. Reuters

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WHAT'S INSIDE

SBC Red Lions tame NU Bulldogs/A24

SPORTS

E-mail: p_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Tell us your feedback: inquirer-sport-sense@yahoogroups.com (Subject: to 2002) (Smart)

Express next for hot Kings

UNLESS BARANGAY GINEBRA RELIEVER Lordy Landa gunners or pulls punches, the Kings may leave Ang Kiefoo with no other option but to carry the obvious.

While anyone with the slightest trace of basketball knowledge would label Ginebra a power-house squad, Uichico has constantly begged to disagree—naysaying he'll run out of reasons to do if the Kings fashion out a third straight victory with the same ease and brutality that they did in the first two games.

NLEX will be the next team to get an up close and personal look at the strengths of Barangay Ginebra, which has won its first two games by an average margin of 26 points, capped by an 8-0 27 mauling of defending champion Purefoods on Saturday in Cotabato.

Still, the reserved and taciturn former San Miguel coach vowed away from accepting the label of invincibility being tagged on his Kings by citing factors that tend to fade how easy their two outings have been.

"Without it is a young team that is still feeling its way around the league," Uichico had said, moments after a 23-point rout of the young and inexperienced Dragons in the inaugurals Sunday last week.

"Purefoods is still not in the form that was in a championship the last time out," was what he said of the out-of-town game opponent of the Chinese Giants five nights ago. "It still does not tell us the true strength of this Elasto[illegible] team."

A victory in the 7:30 p.m. contest would give the Kings the sole elimination round lead, and if it happens so for a Monday yet again, it would be interesting to note what moves the multi-titled coach would be keeping sure.

Meanwhile, a rejuvenated Sta. Lucia squad shoots for a second straight win earlier, clashing with a new look San Miguel squad in the 4:35 p.m. game.

Mooncy B. Garcilla

STANDINGS	W	L
Ginebra	2	0
Talk 'N Text	2	0
Red Bull	2	0
Sta. Lucia	1	1
Welcoat	1	1
Alaska	1	1
San Miguel	0	1
Air21	0	1
Purefoods	0	2
Coca-Cola	0	2

Games Today (Araneta Coliseum)
4:35 p.m.—San Miguel vs. Sta. Lucia
7:30 p.m.—Air21 vs. Barangay Ginebra

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Jinggoy to take Joey's place; Lim leaves SBP

FROM A FORMER SENATOR TO AN INCUMBENT senator.

This will be the change in leadership of the Basketball Association of the Philippines as it holds its national congress at the Alabel Hotel today.

A reliable source said yesterday that Jinggoy Estrada is going to be elected as the next SBP president, replacing former senator Joey Lina, who resigned Monday after failing in his effort to unify the factions of local basketball by way of the controversy-laden ouster of Jaworski.

Jinggoy, a longtime member of the SBP who as San Juan mayor supported the San Juan Knights in the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association, doesn't show up at the congress.

Meanwhile, controversial SBP secretary general Graham Lim yesterday tendered his resignation from the SBP board.

Lim made the decision a day after Lina resigned from the SBP to allow somebody acceptable to the PBA to take over his place in the three-man panel.

"For all of its ups and downs, triumphs and shortcomings, the SBP was willing to sacrifice its 74-year-old tradition to give way to the highest ideal of bringing basketball back to life," said Lim. "But it doesn't and with the sufferings.

Some sacrifice have to be made, and that is one of them," wrote Lim in his resignation letter to Jinggoy.

Lim, who had to endure detention at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan from March 23 to April 6 due to a deportation case filed against him, said his priorities now for basketball has prompted him to act on the decision.

"More than half my life has been devoted to basketball," wrote Lim. "From a merely player of my high school team, to organizer of several PBL-Chinese leagues and as official of the basketball Association of the Philippines. I have been a constant servant of the game we all love. Bay kasi ve

LIM

What they say

Chino Trinidad, PBL commissioner/ "LOOKS LANG NG BAP PERO THE CHIEFS IS here among basketball leaders not to concern us. Dun ko ibinase ito. Base on the POC, which had nothing to do with the talks."

"This resignation only showed that this organization [BAP] has no stability. Instantly mare pala gagawa, but with his resignation, we can finally move."

Sonny Barrios, dominguo kasi manay na lang na OK tapos na ang usapan, eh. Bangalawang linggo na ang nakaraan, tapos ngayon, biglang lumabas na ito. Kung ito ang gusto ni Jinggoy, bahala na."

"This is a clear grandstanding what Mr. Lina did. Ano kung dinala ng mga tao sa BAP na hindi nararating ang unity efforts, nagkakaroon? Ako, Dapat tapusin mo muna ang trabaho. Hindi dinis na ng ka-kongreso ang isipan."

* * *

Mark Joseph, POC deputy secretary general/ "POC has never received any communication from SBP, much less have anything to do with the supposed outcome of the election."

* * *

Buddy Andrada, vice chair, POC membership committee/ "Di ako nag 30 years as a member of the POC, we have never singled out any person. Maybe we assume Lina thinks that he is that important to the POC that he should be singled out, but the truth is, he wasn't. Our membership rules apply equally to all applicants."

Jane Navarro

PCU's Lainar Navarro (right) tries to slip past AMA's Arnold Galang

SBC Red Lions tame Bulldogs

By Jasmine N. Payo

SHOOTER CHAMPION NEARLY FELL AS the San Beda Lions struggled to forge a 73-72 victory over wildcard San Sebastian Bull-dogs in the Collegiate Champions League yesterday at the San Beda gym.

Yusef Aljamal's one-and-only 13 points, including the game-clinching lay-up that broke the game's final deadlock and settled the final score with 58.7 seconds remaining.

With the victory, the NCAA champions completed the eight-team quarterfinal cast of the knockout-style tournament. SBAP rolled Santo Tomas Tigers surprisingly lowered out of the competition after losing to the Jose Rizal Bombers, 85-83, last Monday.

The Lions had to do without Sam Ekwe, the NCAA rookie Most Valuable Player who suffered the bench due to a bigger extended right knee.

But aside from the absence of the Nigerian import, coach Aric Reed admits that the Lions were still home.

"Everybody's still tired of team," he said. "I hope we'll get better everyday. What we have achieved in the NCAA, we have to set aside and just focus on the task at hand."

Ala-Ket, the Philippine Christian Dolphins also clinched a quarterfinal berth after repulsing the Arise Computer Titans, 95-88.

Despite having only a day of practice, the Dolphins got a sensational performance from Jason Castro, who scattered 21 points, seven rebounds, three steals and three blocks.

The scores:

Second Game

San Beda (73) – Aljamal 13, Gonzales 11, Argente 10, Malagio 10, Santamaria 8, Sapsal 7, Baetiong 5, Arabejo 4, Tenorio 2, Ildefonso 0.

SBC (72) – Gonzales 18, Lopez-Lopez 16, Asoro 12, Quinto 11, Jimenez 7, Ramos 5, Mercado 3, Mangaoang 1, Lim-Lee 0, Lee 0, Antonelli 0.

Quarters: 20-18, 40-41, 60-59, 73-72

PBL rookie camp starts

A SLAM DUNK CHAMP AND A LAP STAR GET to prove a point and a slew of exciting players that will show their stuff in today's PBL Rookie Camp at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.

Rudhel Custodio, who was inexplicably benched by the coaching staff of the UE Warriors in their Final Four contest with the UST Tigers, is out to prove that he more than 70 players eager to strut their wares in the country's premiere amateur league.

This rusty Custodio, who earned close to 50 points for the Warriors, is expected to blaze in one of the league's most entertaining rookies in the mat of stars Arsenal Santos, Lil Tenorio, Joseph Yeo, Gabby Espinas and Billy Williams.

"He's one of the promising players in the amateur ranks these days," said Commissioner Chino Trinidad.

Elmore Espiritu, another UE player who gained instant fame after edging out Ateneo's JC Intal in the slam dunk contest of this year's Sear 3on3 ISAAF vs. BCAA Showdown last Saturday, is also joining the camp.

SPORTSWATCH

GCAP derby at SJC

IF THE GOLDEN COOKIES WERE FOR IN THE Philippines (GCAP) 3-ring derby series of San Juan Chamber, it's the Golden Cookies for Taguig-area Complainer 2006 announces the event which will start at 1 p.m. Activities' "out flag and open out" format to categorize areas, alternative can apart more than 3 kilometers from start to finish, and will feature Patrick Antonio. Aside from Antonio, also set to field five bodybuilder are Gary Ramos, Rudy Alfonso, Louie Cruz, Boy de Vera, Pet Cudenillo, Mayor Jaime Agustin, Senator Joey Lina, Senator Jinggoy Estrada, Mayor Joseph Estrada, Vice Mayor Janet Lim-Napoles, Rep. Percy Rodriguez, Rep. Ronnie Zamora, Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, Rep. Bobby Ramos, Rep. Edcel Lagman, Rep. Ruffy Biazon, Mayor Buddy Bonoan.

Winning Time derby

WINNING TIME DERBY'S SUPERVISOR GENE BERRY SHOWS off at 4 p.m. today with 11 fights lined up and with B. Ming Dela Cruz as main attraction. Participants include former ambassador Carmelo Valenzuela, Jose Antonio Jr., Ali Quintos, former boxer Nonito Donaire, Jr., Jeff Cardenas, Madhardmen Brothers, Joel Fernando, Rupert Thorham group, Bobby Demeral, Bobby Olano, Lito Parque, Jr. Dolino, Boy Marco, Fausto Gas, Arman Santos, Boy Jacinto and Cecil Del Rosa. The event will be hosted by the Winning Time Arena group and sponsored by sponsors Jiro Philippines, Body Fitness and Wheels Co. of NUTS Sports and Entertainment Corp.

Ozamiz rips Montana

OZAMIZ CITY – RECEIVING TITLIST OZAMIZ Cesta dropped 29 points while holding Montana Powerhouse Pastas to 11 in the fourth quarter to rally a strong RP 77-71 victory Sunday in the 2006 Spring Cooking CLASSIC National Cup basketball tournament in the Gov. Angel Medina gymnasium.

Powered by Bruce Davis, Marlon Flores and new recruit Lou Gatumbato, the Cores Shrine cagers of Mayor Reynaldo Hercejera ran into a right moment into a streak.

It was the second win in four games for Ozamiz, pulling the defending champion in a tie for third place, with idle North Cotabato.

Homecourt Armando Quibod's bruisers remained in the thriller with a 6-2 count in the tourney sponsored by Philippine Cooking Oil, Nation's Spring Water Pilots, Shakies, Holiday Plaza Hotel, Cebu and Prime Channel.

"Montana is a strong team," said Ozamiz coach Alfred Cuiles. "It kept on coming back. It's good that the veterans do not panic and stayed cool in the end game."

Davis led Ozamiz's scoring with 21 points on 8-for-14 shooting. He also finished with four rebounds, two assists and two steals.

Gatumbato, a former Fugoflex stalwart, scored 14 points, including two 3-pointers, and added four assists.

The scores:

OZAMIZ (77) – Davis 21, Jones 10, Gatumbato 10, Barrios 9, Cabanos 8, Sampio 5, Bautista 4, Campos 3, Lopez 2, Guerrero 2, Cabling 2, Amorado 1, Bil-lig 0

MONTANA (71) – Ayano 16, Cruz 9, Espeleta 8, Juego 8, Ramos 8, Pamaran 6, Nuevo 5, Abiol 4, Arcenio 4, Bonifacio 2, Bulosil 2, Alcantara 0

Quarters: 19-18, 40-38, 58-53, 77-71

Ardina spearheads RP World Am bid

YOUTHFUL SENSATION JOCETTE Ardina will banner the Philippines' campaign as this year's World Amateur Team Championships slated Oct. 19-21 for the ladies and Oct. 20-29 for the men's competition in Hollandscheb, South Africa.

Bella Belita, who is turning 15 this December, is expected to draw attention from the competing field owing to her string of fame, including the Junior World crown in the 11-12 division last July and gold in the recently-the Hong Kong Open title.

Belita joins fellow Junior World champion Cyra Rodriguez and reigning Philippine Ladies Open titlist Debbie de Villa in the RP ladies squad out to improve the joint 10th place finish by the team of Jayvee Agojo, Leon Balbuena and Anya Dacanay in Puerto Rico in 2004.

Marvin Dumandan, winner of four events this year, including the North Country Orange Amateur event in California, heads the men's team composed of international veterans Jeffrey Fortuna and Singapore Pan Open champion and Puerto Rico runner-up Michael Bibat.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL: The 2006 Petron Ladies' Beach Volleyball Tour tournament continues its eye-catching finale on Oct. 28 and 29 at the RiderWorld Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Event organizer Tuba Arbanchi (right) participates in a training session as Divisoria Rose Lanza with players Jennifer and Jasmeen Lanzaras, Diana Rosa Obrejo and Sheryl and Michele Laborte.

Petron taekwondo meet set Oct. 15

YOUNG BUT UNDAUNTED JINX HAS THE SPOT light Oct. 15 with the staging of the 2006 Petron national age group championships at the Rizal Memorial coliseum in P. Burgos St. After Coach Dr. Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert Aseneguen expects around 1,000 athletes from 17 regions to bout divisions, namely wild junior (men and women aged 13 to 14) and grade school (men and girls 12 years old and below). Organizing committee chair Danny Chavez Jong says participants will come from PTA-affiliated chapters and leagues in Metro Manila and the provinces. The event is expected to show the development and progress of taekwondo, especially in the grassroots level. "We expect to see future national and international competitors from boxing but only participants," said Jong.

The contest is supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Powerade, Milo and Asaol.

Young aces closing gap

THE COUNTRY'S TOP-TEE MASTERS ARE so young that their "batang" Petrie is 36, fifty-something Jun "batang" Petrie is 56, fifty-plus "Dad" Reyes, 52, Francisco "Cipoy" Bautista, 49, and Indelio "Boy Institute" Luzi, 49.

But there's no cause for alarm, according to local fabrics patriarch Cabrera "Pepe" Abarca, younger stars are emerging. Be ready to take over their places in the international pool arena.

"The young guns are cutting up very fast," said Abarcaso. "They are closing the 20 years gap of the veterans and the young stars members in barely one year of international exposure."

Abarca is referring to new pool talents Dennis Orcollo, 27, fresh from winning the World Pool League in Warsaw, Poland; Alex Pagulayan, 27, the 2004 World Pool champion and 2005 US Open winner; Marlon Manalo, 26, 2006 World Pool semi-finalist.

Orcollo, who defeated the top players from Asaol's billiard promotion, won seven titles in 03 the pool circuit alone and placed third in the 2006 North American International Pool Tour (IPT). A ball about our last July in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Marlon first met Orcollo

ORCOLLO

ROOKIE Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SMA squeezes himself on the inside lane to retrieve the ball from Jody Cousteng of San Mig Coffee.

Coseteng, Maningding win

ILOILO – DEFENDING CHAMPION JOEY COSEteng of San Mig Coffee and Ully Manningding of Explorer swept their respective divisions at the 2006 San Mig Coffee Petron Blaze Cup Philippine Touring Car Championships last Sunday at the Iloilo International Raceway here.

Coseteng, behind the wheel of Petron Runners of Petron Ultron 600 to cade both races in the Group 1 Petron Blaze Super Saloon Series of this event overcame by the Automobile Association Philippines.

Manningding pulled away early and won the Group 2 Petron Blaze National Production Car Championship.

Coseteng had a tough time against Isabelito who passed him twice in the first race, the last with five laps to go.

But, feeling brake pads and sliding tires spoiled Bautista's hopes as Coseteng regained the top spot at the hairpin and closed the door on the inside lane en route to his third straight sweep.

Don Dexter of Subaction Team TEC I wound up third in both races.

BF TOP CHOICE

Provided by NewspaperDirect

Two RP jins come out of retirement

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE TAEKWONDO is pulling two of its stars jin out of retirement in a determined bid to win its first Asian Games gold in Doha.

Olympian Brandt Grimm, the 1998 Bangkok Asiad silver winner, will support the 10-man/10 team to the Universiade Games double-gold winner and 2002 Asiad bronze medalist Tshenette Go.

The journey brought home five boxers during the 2002 Busan Asiad through Go, Veronica Domingo, Dindo Bacquia, Margie Bombuen and Dahlson Cuebico.

Although Reyes scouted upon to win gold for the country, the Philippines has yet to bring home the top prize to the Asian Games. The closest it got was in 1998 with Cender used in 1998 Seoulstone with Bobby Vargas.

"Through the Olympics of thats and all the best jins are seeing action especially with the Beijing Games around the corner," Fernandez, himself a former Olympian, told the boxers.

Aside from 28-year-old Mitch, the team is expected to have Deng gold winner and 2002 Asiad bronze medalist Tshenette Go.

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Four teams start race for World Series slots

NEW YORK—THE SUNDAY Tigers travel to Oakland seeking another taste of success while the Mets travel in leaving the Big Apple spotlight in those seekers against the Cardinals in baseball's league championship series this week.

Baseball's marathon season is down to four teams with the American League's Detroit Tigers and Oakland Athletics, and National League New York Mets and St. Louis Cardinals vying to win their respective playoffs to reach the finals.

The three underdogs and injury-riddled Lone Mets came through the best-of-five division playoffs after a six-month season and now must prove their mettle in a best-of-seven format.

The Tigers, who threw season opener an id, started with 119 losses, clenched Saturday and their ben to championship on Saturday after conquering the favored New York Yankees in the first round. Pitching hero Kenny Rogers spurred bobbly on fans from the top of the Tigers dugout during a wild celebration.

Oakland, the small-market team who conceded the playoffs four years in a row from 2000 without getting past the first round, toppled the Minnesota Twins to earn the right to host the Tigers in their series opener on Tuesday.

St Louis, who were into a wonderful season collapse at the end of the regular season, teetered behind ace starter Chris Carpenter and pesky-grass slugger Albert Pujols to defeat the San Diego Padres in four games.

New York, hampered by injuries to baseball starters Pedro Martinez and Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez, used a hard-hitting lineup and bullpen depth to sweep the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Mets, whose last World Series appearance was a losing effort against the Yanks in the 2000 "Subway Series," will take on New York's Octobre baseball stage the rest of the way hoping their series opener Wednesday against the Cards.

Starting pitching is the strong suit of the American League hopefuls, while offensive punch is the best weapon among the National League teams remaining.

Detroit, 90-game losers in the race previous season before their resurgence this year under rampage ace Jim Leyland, feature hard-throwing young right-handers Justin Verlander, 22, and Jeremy Bonderman, 22, and lefties Jesse Robertson and Rogers. Reuters

Thank God, Friday's got big football goals

By Francis Ochoa

THERE WAS NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY as the Stones football field and lush seats lined itself across Sunday's blue-silver soccer clinic like a glob of black ink dropped in a clear glass of water.

The pitch, watered by a steady midday drizzle just hours before, was flanked in the south of end and studded game as Japanese midfielder played on the fi. ast moments of a pickup football game. A girl in cleats of white shorts and a red Converse sweatshirt hood for a third jacket may have seemed completely out of place in the entire scene.

But only for a while.

When Andrew "Friday" Carmichael kicked off her cleats and deftly juggled a soccer ball with her feet, it was clear she belonged there. And when she sent the ball sailing to the back corner of a partially ripped net, everybody knew this was her playground.

Including the players, who stopped to watch her perform and applauded soon afterwards.

"I really love soccer. I've loved it since I was a kid," said Friday.

She's soccer freak," said Jenny Cruz, a close friend of the 29-year-old former national player.

"I used to play with Stephen and I know, the team that opened the big league door for her.

Brighton and Hove manager Mel Rix is making her the Seagulls' starting center midfielder.

"I'm actually going to be an attacking type of midfielder," Jemand Friday. For us she is to have more the position is. (Mid-fiel Michel's David Beckham, Manchester United's Ryan Giggs and the Dutch national team's Dwarfer Zidane.

And in this stint, which Friday considers to be her last one as soccer before she walks it quits, starting goals won't mean just firing shots into opponents. A goal for her is something with a bigger sense of purpose.

"Brighton and Hove I can't say since we've come up with this kind of a deal where they'll take me to develop soccer here," revealed Friday, to ease if she and managing the colors of the national squad, she'll be playing for the country on an even bigger stage.

"I'll be getting a fee of her with the English [football] Association[," she said. "Plus, my manager is a football development officer for the English FA. They'll look at up with qualified coaches who can conduct courses with me to have. I'll be with schools you name from and world like that."

To underscored why Friday would fit such a huge mean into her life, one only needs to look at her background and grasp the fact that from soccer often drives her to excel.

As a petite five-year-old, she learned taekwondo of the Philippine national team would often be left counting at the exhibition while men being tied fought, a reaction for the U. Ranon Football Asiad before, play with her brother on the field. She'd roll and kick soccer balls into walls and juggle them a lot until she noticed she could do it better than most boys.

As a high schooler at Colegio de San Agustin, she'd get frustrated at the pace of girls' football that she'd play with the boys—wearing shirt and brother shoes.

Now, she takes stock in the state of football and knows she has to do something about it. From a professional football fans, who pay attention to the game to understand it, during World Cup years, to—only no that the country's football program has given new meaning to the word rock-bottom.

What once the glory MVP of the Philippines' first win in the Asian level, a 5-3 thrashing of Nepal during the 1999 Asian Women's Football Championship where Friday scored the first two goals?

"I has want to give our fans and girls a chance," said Friday. "Hope fully, if I do good in the English Premier League [...] will open doors for the country. Hopefully it will be easy for us to play anywhere."

Even as the early evening rushed the last light out of the sky, there was a hint of a glow on Friday's face as she pulled up her sweatshirt, trudged barefooted across the soggy field and kicked a ball along the way.

One day she hopes, she won't be a playground for her own, but of other pesky little girls who dream of running around unencumbered pitches while wearing shirts and brother shoes.

FRIDAY! Carmichael's allure for her European stint. The former national player has had a taste of big-time soccer before when she starred for the Los Angeles Valley College in the United States. AFP

'Don't stop dreaming,' —PSC chair

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE HEART OF THE Filipino athlete.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Ramirez yesterday made that plea in reaction to the five-man special report which forecast the country as not having a slightest chance of winning its first gold medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"We should not stop dreaming. I hope and pray for inspiration for us to get the gold," said the PSC chief. "If we stop dreaming and hoping, then what's the use of the PSC and the POC (Philippine Olympic Committee) and all these preparations for the Asian Games and the Southeast Asian Games.

"Let's just go back to the grassroots and just plan, devise for the future."

Ramirez was referring to stories that came out this week that quoted the dreary prediction by forecast Project: Gintong Alay thrice for Michael Knox.

He also read the present setup in SP sports where the POC and the PSC—powerful bodies that run sports affairs in the country—are told by law to be "separate entities."

"Before, some sports officials have the close linkage with Malacañang," said Ramirez, alluding to Erma, a nephew of former president Fidel Ramos.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Top NBA pick good enough in first outing

WASHINGTON— OUT AT THE TOP OF THE chess game are, Andrew Bargnani grabbed a loose ball and immediately rose to take his first shot as an NBA player.

The ball went in, part of the top-overall draft pick's eight points and four rebounds as 17-0 rookies to the Toronto Raptors' 93-88 exhibition victory over the Washington Wizards on Monday.

The 7-foot, 250-pound Italian—the first European ever taken No. 1—entered as a substitute about 5½ minutes into the game and also showed some rough edges. He picked up three personal fouls within four minutes.

"I need to improve the same things I did in Italy," Bargnani said. "If I don't do well in defense, I won't be on the floor."

Bargnani (last AVAILable) finished 3-of-6 from the field, including 2-for-4 on 3s. He finished with five fouls.

"That's just all young guys," Raptors coach Sam Mitchell said.

Still, Bargnani did close offensive foals from Wizards rookies Brendan Haywood and Juan Thomas, both fours with a bit of an exaggerated knee backward...a veteran move by Bargnani, who turns 22 this month. AP

It's war, not a chess match, for Pacquiao

FOR A START, IT SHOULD BE NOTED here that Manny Pacquiao plays a sharp game of chess.

We've got a boxing goal here.

That said, it should be noticed that there's every reason to believe Manny Pacquiao will do and to everything to every enemy in his third encounters with Erik Morales.

Pacquiao has been training longer and harder than he had done in his second fight with Morales for his third "Grand Slam" clash with his Mexican rival.

Pacquiao will not only be sharper and stronger—he will also be smarter.

There definitely will be no repeat of the blind ball that got out, bloodied and was rounded by Morales in their first fight.

After Pacquiao abandoned that right, lulled up style of Morales 2003, he metamorphosed into a sharp striker—an amazing rendition of Imelda and Ismena...as knock out Morales last January.

For the record, Morales has again decided to train up high in Mexico's Distant Mountains.

But Pacquiao won't be denied as he regularly jogs and raides the daring Bell-Ida Heights that overlooks the city and around the Bellywood town, site of his PBAC/Gatt training camp.

Despite his fabulous exploits, Dave's however no reason to fear Pacquiao might suffer from burnout.

If there's something to be wary about it's not overdoing it—there's the real possibility that he could also start treating his next bout with Morales like a chess match.

No kidding. This possibility appealed to no lesser an the expert by the Gen's Quixote Aloxson who thinks Pacquiao was spurred on saying "Jenden will decide his rubber match with Morales."

Bare Eye

Recab Trinidad

The way dandi it goes, something is more than and hoopra wondering.

Didn't Pacquiao run enough losses in his last encounter to order to succeed?

Should he resort to overtighter tactics for his next big fight?

Says the exclusive report: "According to Pacquiao, he has got 20 new moves to unveil in the Grand Finale."

The pronouncement must confuse something him, at least, it was not Morales himself, but Pacquiao marketing man Eric Pineda, who divulged the plot.

It was just very clear valuables there would be a Queen's Gambit or Sicilian Defense in the ring repertoire.

But we could only pray those "20 new moves" won't melt like the promised Manila ice that fizzled out in Pacquiao-Morales 1.

The truth is that thinking too much during a fight—which would result into undue confusion—is bound to ruin Pacquiao's concentration and orange-like style.

It doesn't always pay for a boxer to be too boxing; it slows him down.

For sure, Pacquiao happens to be a cognizant risk taker who seldom gives his foe room to plot and think.

In Pacquiao's case, it's his fists that do the thinking.

His greatest, sharpest weapon are assets, somehow.

His task is to outfoot, not to outthink, Morales.

Pacquiao happens to be a wanting not a silly writer.

He can't afford to be a loser.

Let him torture to the chessboard, but only after his next big ring assignment.

[SOS: From pastor Chapel Almeda—This is a call for help for "Bilanga" names in Biñan, Laguna, who lost their homes, belongings, everything. The Bilanga of Fort of Bonanza Biñan, College Montessori de Phi. Lambat-hagu Inc. is in cooperation with acting Biñan Mayor Lovito Abreau. Your kind gesture will go a long way to bring some balance to so much human misery. Pls. (no) kind donations (no), clothes, bedding, appliances, etc. Thru Pastor Almeda in Quezon City, mail dropoff point.]

SPORTS

PSC firm on team size

Reducing number of coaches useless, says Ramirez

By Jane Navarro

SPORTS OFFICIALS WILL HAVE TO DO SOME JUGGLING ACTS IN Asian Games Village in Doha, Qatar, to house the entire 600-strong RP contingent.

The Doha Asian Games Organizing Committee had earlier announced its stand limiting the number of beds for the RP delegation to 324. "We would leave 64 other members of the delegation without a place to stay in the Asian Games village.

"It's just a matter of managing the number of athletes and officials who will be there during the peak of [competition]," said Philippine Sports Commission chair and NOC chief of mission Butch Ramirez.

He said RP delegation officials in Doha may send home athletes and coaches a day or two after they have seen actions so that other members of the delegation can use their rooms.

According to Ramirez, the proposal to reduce the number of coaches so that more athletes can compete is unnecessary.

"The athletes and coaches should go together," he said. "One without the other will be useless. It's a question of: do we attempt to reduce athletes just participating to be present?"

Officials of the Philippine contingent are seeking accommodations for a total of 207 athletes and 132 coaches in the Asian Games Village.

Asiad torch relay

Meanwhile, the Asian Games torch will be carried by a relay of runners across 16 cities in Metro Manila when it arrives from Busan, South Korea, on Tuesday next week.

The torch relay, which started in Doha, will visit the cities of Manila, Quezon City, Marikina, Pasig, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Makati, Taguig, Pasay and Parañaque during the 12-hour long affair on Oct. 19.

Organizers of the torch relay led by retired Gen. Mario Tamayo and Mr. Cubilin, told yesterday's PSA Forum at the Pancake Restaurant in Manila that former President Fidel V. Ramos, bowling World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno and Bong Coo, World Masters titlist Jesse Sierra, SEA Games aquatics gold medallists Akiko Thomson and Eliezer Mac Bonzi will be among the torchbearers.

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OCTOBER SCHEDULE

RP squad recalls Younghusbands

By Cedel Tupas

FILIPINO-BRITISH brothers James and Phil Younghusband have been recalled to bolster the national football team for the qualifying stage of the Asian football Federation Cup in Bacolod City next month.

The Younghusbands, who saw action in the Southeast Asian Games last week but for only foreign-born players strengthening the national lineup for the Nov. 12-26 tournament, which serves as qualifier for the main arena of the AFF Cup, formerly known as the Tiger Cup, set in Thailand in January.

National team coach Aris Caslib confirmed Monday night the inclusion of midfielder Hilferkin Matthew Hartmann, a defender, and midfielder Czhar Giesbrecht in the pool of players for the tournament.

JAMES Younghusband (left) was dropped by Chelsea while Che-Zich has kept Phil.

The Younghusbands said Giesbrecht may join the rest of the squad two weeks before RP faces Laos in its opening match on Nov. 12 at the Bacolod stadium.

The RP boosters said Laos played in 1 all draw the last time they met in the 2002 World Cup qualifying in May 2001 in Manila.

"We want the best team possible for the AFF Cup qualifiers," said Caslib, who supervises the national training at the Philippine pitch in Pasig City.

P108-M PSC budget OK'd

BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS have assured the Philippine Sports Commission they would approve the government agency's P108 million budget next year.

PSC chair Ronald "Bong" Favis, yesterday confirmed that the Senate and the House of Representatives cleared the agency's operational needs for 2007.

After yesterday's Senate hearing, Favis said the proposed budget got the nod of the committee chaired by Sen. Franklin Drilon and would be finalized when the Senate convenes again in plenary session.

The House of Representatives also approved the same amount.

"I thank the House and the Senate for passing the budget back," said Favis, stressing that the P100-million allocation is a giant leap from the P55 million the PSC got from government coffers this year.

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BUSINESS

Edita Raul G. Marcelo ▪ Assistant Edita Carrie S. Martenia

Palace backtracks on cheap loans program

GMA to amend EO; social welfare agency to take lead

By Dexter L. Lucas

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS SET TO AMEND THE controversial EO 558, which critics feared would open the floodgates to a new round of costly government dole-outs.

Drafted in response to strong opposition from the private sector and some government agencies, the amended order effectively kills the Arroyo administration's plan to have government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial agencies (GFIAs) lend out money at low interest rates to private borrowers.

In a recent interview, Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves confirmed the plan to issue an amended order—dubbed EO 558-A—to prevent a repeat of previous state-funded dole-out programs that sent the government an estimated P10 billion in losses since the 1970s.

Another ranking Finance Department official, requesting anonymity, said the amended order would restrict the lending program through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). This represents a significant departure from the original plan, which would have allowed all GOCCs and GFIAs—regardless of their fields of expertise—to engage in lending operations.

"We tried to limit the program to only the unserved villages," he said, referring to rural areas which are beyond the reach of private microfinance institutions.

President Arroyo earlier justified the repeal of the Bayanihan law as state dole-outs, saying that many areas in the countryside remained unserved by the microfinance industry that sprung up as a result of the order.

The finance department official said the areas that would be eligible for cheap loans under the DSWD's fold fea-

PALACE 02

Vehicle sales hardly grew in Jan.-Sept.

By Bernadette C. Damirag

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES GROWTH was almost flat at 0.2 percent from January to September, posting factories far from the 100,000-unit mark that automakers said would be an indication of continued growth.

In a joint report, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Camp) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) said a total of 72,085 units were sold as of end-September against 71,936 units in the same period last year.

The report said they needed to sell an average of more than 9,000 units a month in the fourth quarter if they would handle 100,000 units this year.

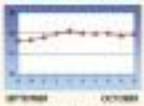
The assemblers also reported that

VEHICLE 02

IN THIS ISSUE

Tantoco prepare for supermarket listing /B3

Currencies



Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.90 PERCENT lower yesterday amid extended profit-taking on recent gains and a lack of fresh leads to drive the market higher, dealers said.

They said although Wall Street and the Japanese market reached variety in fourth

SHARES 01

Argue about what to eat, not where it is.

Link4

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DISCLOSURES

LBC Express Holdings Corp. has appointed Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. as external auditor for fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2006.

Philippine Stock Exchange has disclosed the listing of 71,000 common shares on Oct. 10, bringing the number of common shares listed under the company's various stock purchase and option plans to 15,204,775. *Compiled by Kara Pascual, Inquirer Research*

Shares close lower

Article page B4

Korea's first-ever machine tool, investors remained wary over the geopolitical tensions which could follow.

The composite index fell 22.91 points to 1,526.91 after trading between 1,518.07 and 1,551.92.

Losers led gainers 410 to 401, with 94 stocks unchanged.

Volume was 757.1 million shares worth 912.2 billion.

"Investors took a cautious stance and the market is also undergoing a correction which we expect to continue in the next few days," said Henry Liu, of Ssangmi Securities.

Liu said the investors arising from North Korea's nuclear weapons test also weighed on market sentiment but it was more of a knee-jerk reaction. *AFP*

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Chemrez to raise ₱1.5B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CHEMREZ TECHNOLOGIES INC., FORMERLY Core-Cost Inc., plans to raise P1.5 billion from a public offering to pare down debt and finance working capital for its indirect operations.

In a supplemental statement and draft prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday, Chemrez chief financial officer Primo Calleja said the bio-diesel producer planned to offer between 396 million and 501 million new shares at P3.01-3.36 per share.

The offered shares will result in an additional public float of 22.5 to 28.5 percent or 26.7 percent of the biofuel firm's expanded capital.

Calleja said Chemrez has tapped Asian Alliance Investment Corporation to be its lead underwriter.

Core-Cost is the market leader in the manufacture and distribution of powder coatings.

The company earlier this year entered into a share-swap agreement with affiliate Chemrez Inc., a biodiesel producer, which effectively made Chemrez a wholly-owned Core-Cost subsidiary.

The company name was changed to Chemrez Technologies.

Chemrez has a P450-million rendered facility in Lilo, Quezon City, that can produce 90 million liters of biodiesel a year.

Palace . . .

From page B1

ployment Assistance Readiness (BEAR) on poverty-building programs would be identified by Philippine Credit and Finance Corp., and an agency that appears to the finance secretary.

The program will focus on enhancing the entrepreneurial skills of rural beneficiaries and training them to their chosen fields of business. "Once they have the necessary skills, they will be directed to a SBI [government-owned financial institution], which will then direct them to a private-sector which will be responsible for seeding out the money," the Palace official explained.

The BOP drafted the amendment to the controversial Palace order and the final draft was now awaiting President Arroyo's signature, according to the official.

The official said the new EO has already been "approved in principle," representing a significant change to the features of the BOP, which had initially balked at being left out of the implementation process by Presidential Management Staff chief Jerry Barican. The original program's main backer

The Miscellaneous Council of the Philippines Inc. (MICI) welcomed the development, saying the amendments allayed some of the sector's fears.

"The scope will be limited to the 16 poorest provinces rather than are an 80% household income institutions] operating," MICI executive director Edgardo Garcia said in an interview.

The Makati Business Club (MBC) also welcomed the Palace's move to amend the controversial order, but suggested a more direct way of addressing the poverty-reduction concerns.

"Instead of amending EO 556, they should just repeal it and go back to EO 126, 'PBEConvention director Guillermo Luz said in an interview. "The most elegant route is usually the simplest route."

Republika ng Pilipinas
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Kagawaran ng Ekonomiyang Enerhiya
Department of Energy

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(ENC)-Project Procurement of Equipment for CY 2006)

1. The Department of Energy through ENC-Project for purchase of Computer under supplemental budget is inviting to interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Availability for Various Equipment(s)

Name of Project	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
A. Office Equipment	Supply and Delivery of Assorted Office Equipment for CY 2006	P[illegible]
B. Furniture Equipment	Supply and Delivery of Assorted Furniture Equipment for CY 2006	P[illegible]
C. IT Equipment	Supply and Delivery of Assorted IT Equipment for CY 2006	P[illegible]
D. Multimedia Equipment	Supply and Delivery of Multimedia Equipment for CY 2006	P[illegible]
	TOTAL	Php [illegible]

2. The conditions of activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	VENUE	DATE	TIME
Acquisition of Bid Documents	Procurement Section, 2nd Floor, ENC Bldg. 1604	10 October 2006 to 26 October 2006	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Pre-bid Conference	Board Room, 2nd Floor, ENC Bldg. Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) Bldg.	17 October 2006	9:00 AM
Deadline for Submission and Opening of Bids	Board Room, 2nd Floor, ENC Bldg. Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) Bldg.	27 October 2006	9:00 AM
Bid Evaluation	Those submitted on previous activities will be conducted by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)		
Post-Qualification			
Issuance of Notice of Award			

3. Only eligibility checked prospective bidder as per result of the pre-qualification, "passed" criteria. Post-qualification of bidders shall be conducted by the BAC to determine the bidder's compliance and responsiveness to the requirements and conditions of contract.

PROJECT	COST OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS
A Office Equipment	Php 1,000.00
B Furniture Equipment	1,000.00
C IT Equipment	1,000.00
D Multimedia Equipment	1,000.00

4. Non-eligibility checked prospective bidder as per result of the pre-qualification, "passed" criteria. Post-qualification of bidders shall be conducted by the BAC to determine the bidder's compliance and responsiveness to the requirements and conditions of contract.

5. Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of [illegible] and submitted to the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ENC Bldg. 1604 Energy Center, Rizal Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila.

6. The ENC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any deficiency in the bids submitted and accept the bid which is most advantageous to the government.

7. For further information, please refer to the ENC-Project Secretariat at telephone number [illegible] or visit the premises of the Department of Energy at Energy Center, Rizal Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila.

[illegible]
Chairman, ENC-Project BAC

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted, to bid for the one (one) lot(s) of the services at an Insurance Consultant to undertake a risk management study of BSP properties, vehicles, equipment, employees and artworks, subject to updated appraisal and to advise BSP on the appropriate write and kind of insurance coverage.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this consultancy services is P[illegible].

Contract Duration: The work shall be completed within three hundred sixty (360) calendar days or contractual date reckon at Notice to Proceed.

The scope of the work includes, among others: 1) preparatory inputs and evaluation of all available documents of BSP properties; 2) field investigation; and 3) submission of reports and recommendations.

The list of minimum eligibility requirements is enclosed in the Eligibility Check. Eligibility of prospective consultants shall be checked using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Interested consultants must meet the following criteria:

1.1 Must have knowledge of insurance law and Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) property insurance specifications.

1.2 Must have at least five (5) years experience in the management or supervision of property insurance, or other relevant engineering experience or underwriter or an equivalent experience.

1.3 Must not have been disallowed by the GSIS for the last 12 months; and

1.4 Must have undertaken a similar and/or related risk management project for the last six (6) years.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas shall evaluate bids using the Quality Cost Based Evaluation procedure through a weighted scoring system that prioritizes technical capability, management capability, quality of service and the financial bid (FB-EE). The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Eligibility Data Sheet.

The list of eligibility requirements may be obtained from the duly Secretariat at 11/F Condon Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Manila upon submission of a **letter of intent and upon payment of non-refundable fee of P[illegible]**.

Interested suppliers must submit the eligibility documents at the BAC-Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, 2nd Floor, Three-Eleven Building, corner E. Rodriguez and F. Manalac Sts., Binondo, Manila, Metro Manila on or before [illegible].

Bid documents will be available only to interested bidders that has (1) shall be considered) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P1,000.00** to the BSP Cashier.

The procurement of **Insurance for the P[illegible]** and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply.

BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, to declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract and hold no responsibility or liability. Award of contract may be made to the lowest calculated and responsive bid as shall be determined by the committee as one that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZABALA, JR.**
Chairperson

Provided by NewspaperDirect

Tantocos prepare for supermarket listing

THE TANTOCOS OF BATAAN have a growing off to 22-store supermarket and grocery business to its affiliate, Shopwise, preparatory to an eventual public listing, this we have confirmed.

Bataan's Fresh and Express Lanes will close down by the end of this month, and will reopen mid-November under the same names but already under the management of Shopwise.

Although headed by a third-generation Tantoco as president, Shopwise, formally known as Hanson's Supercenters Inc., is actually majority owned by institutional investors led by the AIG Group and the ICCP Ventures of investments bank Investcorp and Capital Corporation of the Philippines.

After the supermarket spin-off, the Tantocos will still retain the flagship Bataan's department store under the family holding company, Bataan Commercial Corp., chaired by the patriarch, Ambassador Bienvenido E. Tantoco.

According to the grapevine, Bataan will lease for 20 years the entire estate of its supermarket division to Shopwise, whose management chair jumps to 20 by next month with the acquisition.

Despite being managed by the mid-market Shopwise, Bataan Supermarket will continue its high-end positioning, just as it had positioned itself since its 1976 beginnings.

To beef up per square-meter sales, Shopwise president Dennis Tantoco plans to add anywhere from 3,000 to 15,000 items per supermarket/hypermarket.

A major innovation will be the introduction of Shopwise's own private-labeling label, including a ready-to-eat line with a 12-week fashion rotation.

To help in the transition period, Shopwise brought back in promotions—designer Mido Fernandez, co-owner of Luxuriosa specialty

COCKTAILS

Victor C. Aguedo

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Anti-piracy drive nets ₱752M

By Bernard W. Domingo

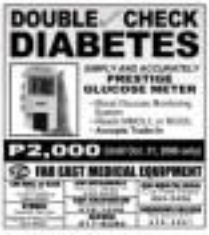
THE GOVERNMENT'S drive to prevent intellectual property rights resulted in a haul of ₱752.6 million worth of counterfeit products in the first semester as agencies strengthened the campaign against Metro Manila, according to the Intellectual Property Office.

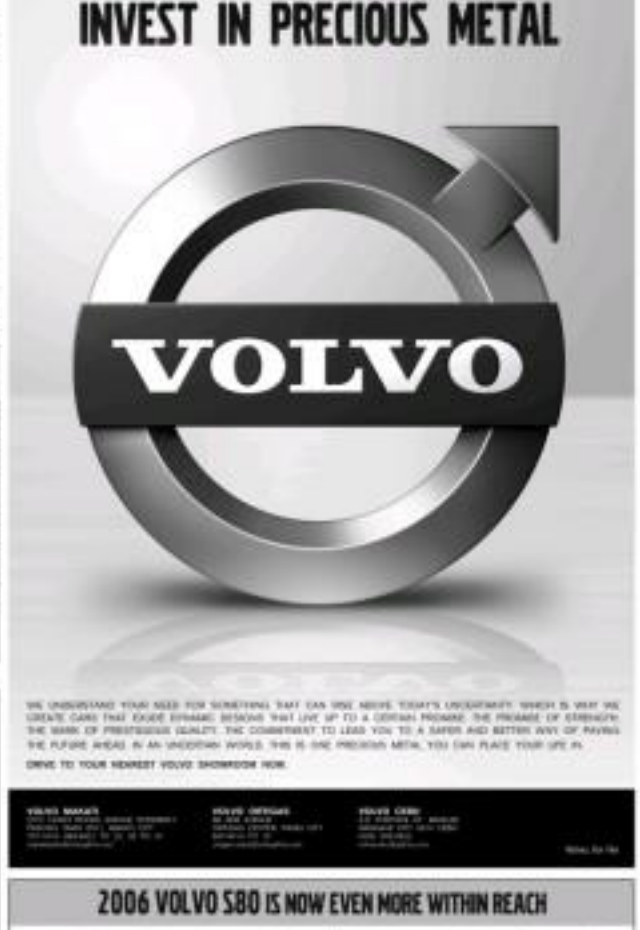
IP Philippines Director General Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. said the government was well on its way to sustaining the clampdown on the sale and distribution of counterfeit goods as operations spread to Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon, Pampanga, Bataan and Cebu.

Cristobal said the National Committee on Intellectual Property Rights (NCIPR) was keeping up the tempo of the government's strengthened campaign against piracy in partnership with IP stakeholders in the private sector.

NCIPR is made up of IP Philippines and the IP enforcement teams of various agencies along with the Task Force on Anti-Piracy of the Department of Justice, the Supreme Court, the National Telecommunications Commission, the National Book Development Board and the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime.

The Optical Media Board, the Bureau of Customs, National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detective Group have their respective IP enforcement teams.





Provided by NewspaperDirect

Shopwise to invest ₱250M in Rustan's supermarts

MWCI gets P1.5-B loan

By Christine A. Gaylican

MANILA WATER COMPANY INC. (MWC) secured a ₱1.5-billion loan from a syndicate of lenders to finance its capital investment program for next year.

MWCI acted as the borrower in the Philippine Stock Exchange that the facility was arranged by ING Bank.

The participating lenders include Sun Life of Canada, Security Bank, Equitable PCI Bank and Landbank of the Philippines.

MWCI, the water distribution subsidiary of the Ayala Group, ended the first half with water sales reaching a record 932 million liters a day, 5% more than last year.

According to MWCI president Antonino T. Aquino, initiatives to reduce losses, coupled with efficient network management allowed the company to further cut its non-revenue water (NRW) to 30.2 percent of total water resources, a 6-percent reduction from June 2005 levels.

NRW refers to unbilled water due to pilferage and illegal connections.

"Year-to-date revenues are at ₱1.22 billion, up 11 percent year-on-year. The revenue increase compared to last year was brought about by the combined effect of tariff adjustments, CPIA and 6-percent growth in water sales," Aquino said.

During the period, earnings before income tax and depreciation (Ebitda) of ₱1.79 billion further grew, with margins at 56 percent, 4 percent higher than last year's 52% margin.

Net income amounted to ₱1.23 billion, 15 percent higher than 1Q06 million, pointing to the same upward last year, the company financial report stated.

Total assets remained solid at ₱38.47 billion, up by 16 percent from December 2005 level.

Hypermart bags 20-year lease deal

By Margie Quimpo-Rubio

RUSTAN SUPERCENTERS INC., owner of the Shopwise hypermarket chain, is investing ₱350 million in Rustan Commercial Corp. after it won the bid for a 20-year store lease agreement.

The agreement signed last Sept. 20 covered 22 Rustan's Food and Express Lane outlets in Manila and Cebu, and Rustan owned restaurants Ben Isquwit, Chez Q and Bo Lu.

Shopwise president Dennis T. Tantoco told the Inquirer that the ₱350 million would be used to refurbish the Rustan's Fresh and Express Lane outlets, buy new cash registers and introduce new product lines.

The Shopwise group will also beef up Rustan's organic line, emphasize wellness and beauty, and improve the ready-to-cook section and the bakeshop.

Tantoco said all Rustan's Supermarket and Express Lanes would be closed at the end of the month and would re-open operations under Shopwise management in November.

Tantoco said RCC decided to let go of its supermarket division under Rustan's Supermarkets Inc., to focus on its core department store business—the more than 50-year old Rustan's Department store.

Shopwise vice president Catherine T. Tantoco said the group would reduce the number of Rustan's fresh outlets to four to five from the current eight.

Shopwise would also decide later on whether to reduce the number of Rustan's Express, which are mini-supermarket stores in residential areas.

The outlets will retain the Rustan's name but the purchasing and management will be centralized under Shopwise.

Tantoco said the consolidation of the Rustan's supermarkets with Shopwise's network would have a positive impact on the hypermart's operations.

"Our client can expect an increase in sales by 65 percent in 12 months; it will professionalize both operations, it will eliminate redundant expenses, we can pool our resources and we can negotiate better terms with suppliers," Tantoco said.

The seven outlets of Shopwise bring its annual revenues of about ₱8 billion.

The Rustan's supermarket outlets have been catering to the A, B market over the past 20 years.

They have been known to carry high-end and specialty food items and have introduced retail innovations.

Rustan's introduced the frequent shoppers card, and was the first to offer free grocery delivery.

Shopwise owners were to retain all their perks.

CA tells PSE to pay ₱9.2M more in taxes

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS held the Philippine Stock Exchange liable for an incorrect shortfall of ₱9.2 million in taxes for 1995.

In a disclosure, the PSE said the appellate court affirmed the decision of the Court of Tax Appeals holding the PSE liable for deficiency in income taxes in 1995 plus interest and deficiency taxes worth P306,349 for late remittance of its withholding tax.

PSE was informed of the CA's decision last Sept. 27.

Industry sources said the cases incurred involved PSE's donation to the PSE foundation.

No additional details were immediately available.

Elizabeth C. Sanchez

Cocktales

From page B1

now; Frances Yu, president of marketing unit B-525 Catanduanes and acted in-law of Senator Tommy Tolentino; and Jonathan Sun' Jung-ho—who helped launch the first Shopwise branch, in Filinvest Alabang, in 1998.

According to the grapevine, Banco Commercial Corp. retained the Dutch investment bank ING and Ayala Balanced Securities to advise the company on its sale process.

Shopwise, on the other hand, was advised by ECP and the Poblocki Paniz law firm.

Where's the beef?

BURGER King has closed down its strategic Dronfield-1 branch, leaving the field to McDonald's and Wendy's among the big name fast hamburger chains in the Bagong Ilaya area.

The Greenhill district outlets amid last year's similar Burger King shutdowns in key districts such as Ortigas, Katipunan and Libis.

The local Burger King franchisee, which has been on the block for some time now, is considered almost equally by the Ayala Corp. and the UK-parent, with Zobel in-law Francisco Jose "Paco" Elizalde representing the ruling minority shareholder.

Elizalde, when reached for comment, said he himself was in the dark as to why the Greenhill branch had shut down.

Mensa-go-round:

- THE COURT of Appeals has dismissed the petition of former Kadi Aimbusan Aute Pramitsawa seeking to nullify not only the election board of Aadi for candy but also Inspector Benjamin Rafael Gonzalez and Chief Insp. Penaverde Jovencito Zuno for reversing a pro-Aute Pramitsawa resolution issued by a Pangasinan board.
- If you must your faith restored in local justice amid the travails of Pinoy lawyers, go ask ple the superstreet lawyers being produced by Rep. Gregorio Ipong of North Catalabus.

Heard through the grapevine

LORDEN Leguda will launch her coffee-table book tomorrow at the Manila Polo Club. It would be a great show for Manila's chick crowd to divine her body language with Aiwan Arvisio, assuming her front half would grace the occasion. [Email: cocktails@gmail.com]

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JOB

Vehicle . . .

From page B1

September sales slid by 3.8 percent to 9,309 units from the previous month's 8,724 units.

"Deliveries to dealers were delayed partly due to the 70-percent value-added tax cap," it said. "Production has also been lower."

The groups blamed the dismal sales in the last few days of September to the wake of Typhoon "Milenyo," which "affected overall performance toward the end of the month."

THM and Camp are hoping for a boost in sales in the last quarter through aggressive marketing campaigns as most of them recall some higher numbers and end the year with a positive growth against the 97,063 units sold in 2005.

As of the end-September, passenger car sales went up 4.5 percent to 27,057 units from 26,760 units a year ago.

Sales of commercial vehicles—from utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles, light trucks and trucks and buses—decreased by 2.3 percent to 44,308 units from 45,308 units.

Sales of AUVs went down 10.2 percent to 10,050 units while those of light trucks slid by 0.1 percent to 1,176 units.

Sales of light commercial vehicles—pickups, vans and compact sports utility vehicles—went up 4.2 percent to 24,299 units while those of trucks and buses grew by 6.3 percent to 868 units.

In terms of total sales, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. emerged at the top with 38.2 percent of the market. It sold 37,561 units the previous nine months, up by 1 percent.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. placed second with 14.1 percent of the market with sales totaling 13,110 units.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2006

MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangonang

FOR A GREENER FUTURE

Ford invests in ethanol today

By Charles E. Bohan

MOST OF US KNOW that by using fossil fuels—gasoline, diesel, or liquefied petroleum gas—to power our vehicles, we are slowly but surely destroying our planet and implicitly our health.

There are the reasons a number of groups and individuals are campaigning for alternative-powered forms since this type of power source is virtually inexhaustible and easily sourced as well as emits no harmful pollutants.

Unfortunately, switching instantly to hydrogen would require a huge investment in the infrastructure to store and distribute hydrogen to vehicles, in addition to the cost of the new vehicles themselves.

The main challenge right now is how to bridge the present fossil fuel dependence to a hydrogen-powered future.

Breakthrough

The breakthrough comes as members of society are now spurring the development of new fuels that may be cheaper and can be more to supply disruptions while at the same time, automakers are constantly looking for alternatives that are less harmful to the environment and not much of a health hazard to motorists/drivers.

This includes American automaker giant Ford that believes ethanol—a form of alcohol produced mainly from sugarcane or other plants like corn—could be the answer to the world's energy dilemma as it's clean, and the fact that it's already powering a growing number of cars around the world.

Ford's interest in using ethanol as an alternative fuel goes back to the days of its founder, Henry Ford who planned to use ethanol as the primary fuel for his Model T, the very first cars ever made on an assembly line.

Ford's interest in using ethanol also goes well with the Philippines' current energy program that aims to decrease dependence on imported oil and develop the agriculture industry, specially sugarcane.

Show of support

To show its support, Ford Group Philippines recently unveiled its first-ever Flexible Fuel Vehicles: The Ford Focus in 1.8-liter and 2.0-liter Sport variants.

Both vehicles, while able to run on conventional gasoline, are E85 capable, meaning they can run on fuel composed of 85 percent gasoline and 20 percent ethanol.

The Focus FFVs will have the same price tags as their conventional fuel siblings: ₱1.825 million for the 2.0-liter variant and ₱1,715,000 and ₱945,000 for the two 1.8-liter variants.

The company assured that driving a Focus FFV is almost the same as driving its gasoline counterpart since the look, the features and the layout all are identical.

Indeed, reduced fuel economy is the only real performance difference between the two and a Focus FFV driver gets the satisfaction of doing something that helps address national energy security as well as global warming concerns.

P1.1-B investment

The company had already invested P1.1 billion to manufacture these FFV-equipped cars in its Sta. Rosa, Laguna plant that has a powertrain capacity of producing 300,000 engines in the next five years.

As of now, Ford Philippines is the first flexible fuel engine manufacturing plant and the only ford machine and ford engine assembly operations in the Asean region.

Once fully operational by the end of 2008, these engines and completely built-up vehicle units, while readily available in the Philippine market, will also be exported to Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam.

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MANILA MIDWEST

Why go for ethanol?

ETHANOL IS THE CENTERPIECE OF Ford's alternative fuel strategy and for the Philippines, it could prove to be one of the best sources of alternative fuel.

The use of ethanol or its blend has been proven elsewhere. In Brazil, ethanol provides more than 40 percent of the fuel for transportation. Moreover, cars capable of running on gasoline or gasoline/ethanol mixtures grew from less than 1 percent of Brazil's new car market in 2003 to more than 70 percent today.

Blending ethanol with gasoline brings these benefits to the environment:

- It adds oxygen to the fuel, thereby making the air-fuel ratio for more complete combustion.
- It is inherently cleaner than gasoline as it emits less hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and hydrogen.
- It reduces carbon monoxide emissions by as much as 25 percent—and less carbon monoxide helps reduce ozone formation and helps reduce levels of greenhouse gases.
- It reduces overall toxic pollution by diluting harmful compounds found in gasoline, such as benzene and other aromatics.

Last year, 10 percent ethanol-blended gasoline or E10 became available at select gasoline stations. Diesel, together with Caltex-Petron-Shell, became the first companies to offer E10. In fact, all of Diesel's Metro Manila stations and a number of its northern and southern outlets in Luzon now offer E10. Over 150 stations nationwide.

Pilipinas Shell becomes the country's first major oil firm to offer unblended ethanol at pump but will initially be available in its Petrokoat, Premig Shine, Rimula and Tsuch Triangle service stations.

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TOYOTA moving forward

Provided by NewspaperDirect

No deal

DEAL OR NO DEAL? NO DEAL, GUNDAM. Nissan chairman/chief executive Carlos Ghosn (left) and Renault chairman/chief executive Louis Schweitzer (right) announce in Paris, France, on Wednesday that the two companies have decided not to pursue a merger between them. Ghosn will remain at the helm of Nissan, while Schweitzer will continue to lead Renault. Ghosn will also remain as chairman of Renault. Ghosn and Schweitzer will also continue to sit on each other's boards. AFP PHOTO/ERIC FEFERBERG

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

At their meeting in Paris, Wagoner threw down another revelation that was impossible for Ghosn to accept: the flexibility to form joint ventures with other auto companies. From the start, Ghosn had wanted a significant stake in GM that would have precluded other alliances. GM was wary about Renault-Nissan buying in, especially without payment of a premium. GM was willing to collaborate only on a project-by-project basis, not form a grand partnership.

Tough

Wagoner could talk tough with Ghosn as his turnaround plan was gaining traction. GM's second quarter results showed a 12-percent rise in revenue from the year-earlier quarter and sharp reductions in pension and other research costs. He knew that a completed deal with Renault-Nissan would just distract GM from its restructuring program.

Meanwhile, Nissan's vehicle sales were slumping. Its operating profit fell 25.7 percent from the year-earlier quarter as the three months ended June and last August Nissan sales in the United States declined for the ninth straight month due to a dearth of new models. To arrest the decline, Nissan plans to roll out eight new models worldwide before March 31.

As for Renault, which a 15-percent owned by the French government, GM sees it as a specialist company that produces subcompacts tailored to the French market with little of GM's technological prowess. In China, the world's fastest growing car market, Renault is not even a player and Nissan has a small presence compared to GM's dominant position. But Ghosn suspects that Renault is a profitable company with a strong balance sheet and a market capitalization above $10 billion, nearly twice GM's $5.3 billion market cap.

Fend off Toyota

Renault-Nissan stud to reassure GM that their companies had to find a way to fend off Toyota from becoming the world's No. 1 automaker. But GM executives see Toyota as only one rival among several. GM won't enter an alliance just to beat Toyota—only if it is in the best interest of its shareholders.

Perhaps American pride had something to do with the details of the deal. As a New York Times editorial noted last week in help there was a lot of debate about allowing control of GM, the venerable American industrial icon, to slip into foreign hands.

More likely, the talks ended because Renault-Nissan would win more savings from genuine integration than GM, which already has a global system for IT and produces diverse operators. Unlike GM, Renault and Nissan also do not have heavy-duty truck platforms in the United States or hybrid vehicles.

As we go to press, Reformist's representative Jemaine Dark was reported to have resigned from GM's board. Dark disputed Wagoner's statement that he supported the board's decision to end the talks with Renault-Nissan. (With reports from AP, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal)

TODAY'S BUMPED STOCK: If it's not loud, you're toodd.

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@yahoo.com.

MotorScope

MOMENT OF VICTORY

Fernando Alonso (center) shares his moment of victory at the Japanese GP with the Mild Seven Renault team. As the 2006 F1 season comes to a close on Oct. 22 in Brazil, Fernando Alonso now has a 10-point lead over his title rival Michael Schumacher in the Drivers' title, while Mild Seven Renault leads Ferrari by nine points in the Constructors' title.

New Kia Sportage

COLUMBIA AUTOMOTIVE CORP., MANUFACTURER AND DISTRIBUTOR OF KIA IN THE PHILIPPINES, recently unveiled its new mid-year car models at the Kia All Cars Show at the Ayala Global City in Taguig City.

Highlighted by the introduction of the all-New Kia Sportage, the Kia All Cars Show presented the Korean car manufacturing giant's current lineup of vehicles—the Picanto, Rio, Sorento, Carnival and K2700—along with its future offerings—the new Carens and the luxury sedan, the Optima.

The all-New Kia Sportage represents the Korean carmaker's country into the sport/SUV market.

The all-New Sportage is powered by a 2.0-liter Continuous Variable Valve Timing (CVVT) engine that delivers 140PS (peak power) at 6000 rpm and 18.9 kg-m of torque (peak torque) at 4500 rpm. The vehicle comes with 205/65r16 all-season and 18.9 kg-m of torque (peak torque) at 4500 rpm. The vehicle comes with 205/65r16 all-season tires. 205/65r16 comes with 205/65r16 all-season tires. 205/65r16 comes with 205/65r16 all-season tires. 205/65r16

Provided by NewspaperDirect

Coty again

MY DRIFT

Andre Palmer

THE NEXT CENTRE OF MONETIZATION will not be the beginning of the long and arduous vetting process for the Car of the Year (Coty) awards. Looking back at the last two years, the notion that the unpredictable and the coated made our lives cuff around, in relative health, is honoured by a pleasant surprise. So much could have gone wrong in the last two years of teething, but both back and hard work are value sweet to have seen the pioneering idea that be strong, well, more lock actually.

Admittedly, purpose is what drives any organization forward and there is a need to always keep our reasons for existing in focus and close to heart. It is so easy to get caught up in the stress, glitz and pull-in that we are part and parcel of any large organization with limited goals. Coty and the Cagli Car Awards Group Inc. now group are no exempt from these issues.

The most important reason

In Coty's case, all one has to do is remember that the most important reason for all the pro-bono work, all the weekends spent in country, is the consumer, you—the buying motorists—are the reason there is all the fuss and flourish about which cars are the year's best, which cars present real value in their segments.

This balance between economic and basic fundamentals of cars and the need for some sort of market-driven consumer protection is where the challenge of Coty really is.

The significance of a car's segment is not the number to only seen in the context of its perceived purpose. There are those, like me, who would assess the automobile for what it is worth as a climbing tool. Some fans, love symbols, love solid, love quirk. On the other side of the organization are those who take a less hard-line route to the same measure, asking how much, how frugal, how pointless to motorists and how easy to use.

Neither these two schools of thought are under the only ways to go about assessing cars. How can I cite that with my convictions and fervor? Am I saying that there needs to be a basic compromise in deciding what is best? Well, being an award that is supposed to hold the consumer in highest regard, yes the concessions that balance performance and practicality must be considered. The reasons are quite simple actually.

Exactly 99.9 percent of people who buy cars are limited by a single most important factor: budget. The one 10.0 percent of the Filipino population(s) is lucky enough not to have to worry about what their rides cost. While Coty is also for those people who are not restricted by the humbling process of the almighty peso, their needs are agreeably quite specialized. When choosing between cars that cost more than might otherwise be famous in decent neighborhoods, an amount of independent thinking and opinion will drive a solid billionaire home proving what he wants, what he believes is best for him.

The best of a segment

By Coty members being able to responsibly and shrewdly assess the ability and value of cars, it is my hope that The Filipino making a choice about what SUV will become his family's or business' workhorse can be steered in the right direction. His personal preferences and wants are his own, but at least a snapshot of what really stands out in the market can be made, for whatever represents the best of a segment.

First-time car owners might actually be the best to benefit from all that Coty tries to achieve, but in the end maybe even some old dogs, with blind brand loyalty, can be made to see the light, if the consumer's mind is opened to the possibilities beyond their comfort zone, then again, all the work and sacrifice are truly worth it. If the media can consistently assess vehicles on similar bias, then maybe the consumer will start to listen intently to what we have to say.

It is my wish that the founding spirit of Cars Philippines, not just for this year's proceedings but also for the editions in the foreseeable future. The need for relevance cannot be cast aside, as choosing the best is to us. It is just a matter of constructing what the consumer needs. For whom is this award really for?

Build us some clout may be on the dressing board for this year's testing, all that matters is that the Filipino motorist can be given an idea of how all the products stack up against each other. The decision is his to ultimately choose. After all, those are the choices that power the automotive industry.

15 things to bring on a road trip

By Tessa R. Salazar

ALL SAINTS AND All Souls days are still three weeks away, but if you've been planning to go on a long drive to the provinces, now's a good time to start taking a second look at your car.

Your senior probably thinking, "Ina, how you another "friendly reminder" from the road safety Drake or Awesome Mustering." Jes, we know you've gotten quite familiar with our oft-repeated "Showbiz" maintenance: Battery, light, oil, water, brake, air or tire, gas and accessories (also a strong tip).

Let's make it different, this time, though. We asked some tips from people of different professions on what they think motorists should bring on a long drive. We asked doctors, mechanical engineers, car experts, road safety educators, and even firefighters and a photographer. Here's what they told us:

1 **Your driver's license (not expired).** Needs no explanation, but you'll be surprised by how many drivers out there actually forget to bring their licenses with them.

2 **Installed road map book with updated alternate routes.** This one you're handy when the usual routes are under repair and you need to plot an alternate route.

3 **Cameras—any digital and not film.** Cool, huh? Just, but if any accident occurs—and it doesn't have to involve you—you're ready to image document the incident. **You'll be helping traffic officers speed up the investigation.** Having a camera cocked and ready to shoot may also help fill up your photo collection with nice scenery shots.

4 **Mobile phone and mobile phone car charger.** Make sure that car charger works, though. And remember those numbers (well, actually just two): 117. And while you're at it, bring a list of other emergency numbers of hospitals along your route and roadside assistance numbers.

5 **Mechanical engineer Edwin Quiros** of the University of the Philippines and mechanical/Volvo Client Consultant engineer Bring an extra fan belt, lube oil, brake, coolant and transmission fluids, grease, "wipe-on" cleaner, rags and tissue, tow rope and jumper cables, and brake fluid.

6 **Press Bureau of Fire public information** officer third Bureau Inspector **Bring three old kit, and lots of drinking** water and a portable fire extinguisher.

7 LTO safety education chief Daisy Jacobo suggests motorists should bring a **passenger with a good sense of** humor and lots of patience. The adage "patience is a virtue" is relevant to the occasion because there are shooting incidents even in pushing lose," she says.

8 **If you're in a country of vehicles, CB** and low-walkie-talkies for each vehicle (with spare batteries) would be helpful. They spare you a lot of cellphone time and money, as well.

9 **Chewing gum and chocolates to keep you up and about while driving.**

10 **Emergency light with early** warning device.

11 **Reflectorized vests for road** visibility in case you and your passengers have to get out of the vehicle during an emergency.

12 **Tire pressure gauge and** spare tire. Then, double check if have your spare tire and if that is still reliable for use. You may not be aware of it, but drivers many have already gone to town with your spare tires. Thus, in general, have a shelf life of five years before the rubber begins to deteriorate, according to Jimmy Gaston of Wheel Gallery Group-ville. He says the deterioration depends on the brand, some tires tend to crack earlier than the others. He adds that it would be wise to pressure for your tire to be inactivate allowable (check your manual or ask your mechanic). If you will be traveling with a full load to protect your tires and tires from getting damaged. Have your four wheels aligned, while you're at it.

13 **Pedestrians and gastroenterologist** Juliet Sy Aguilar with motorists to being accidents, or worse—victims. For Sytor, physical rehydration solution. Aguilar adds that rather than scrip junk food, one should prepare canned fare, home meat cooked food in ensure there are safe to eat; sandwich and healthy snack bars; water instead of soft drinks and coffee for both is and don't forget a sanitizer and all-in-one, too. Aguilar adds that passengers should apply sunblock, wear a hat, and drink water every two hours.

And don't forget your CDs, snacks, sunblock and tolerant, extra clothes, lotion kit, playing cards, garbage bags, packaging tapes, batteries for small gadgets, easy-to-peel fruits, a vehicle engineer whose job is to drive thousands of kilometers around the country to test those vehicles and some for the auto advocate road trail for his outdoor club.

14 **Self-defense tools** (pepper spray or bear gas), Gator' Better to have them at home than bring them along. Cardiologist Rudy Castillo advises motorists to bring chewable aspirin just in case someone develops a heart attack, epinephrine shot for severe allergy/anaphylactic shock, hydrating solutions, intravenous or other sleep aids, sanitizer/hand sanitizer.

15 **Your organ donation card.** Though this may sound morbid, but if something happens to you along the way, we can say it happened for a meaning. "Every time hearing a tested brain some other beginning's end." Ink think that line from Rosemonde's "Closing Time" best sums up this last item.

Provided by NewspaperDirect

BUSINESS

Marina to shipowners: Consolidate or perish

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE $10-BILLION ROLL-OFF (RO-RO) system may have cut interisland transportation costs by 45 percent, but shipowners must consolidate, instead of asking government for subsidies, if they are to survive competition with air and land transportation companies, according to the Maritime Industry Authority.

A report by the government Task Force on Infrastructure Development said the largest travel savings were seen in the shipment of motorcycles from Metro Manila to the provinces. Shipowners of 50 motorcycles used to visit P92,000 via traditional shipping. But deliveries using the Ro-ro system now come up to only P50,000 or 45 percent cheaper, giving firms a viable alternative in transporting products.

Of the 45 percent saved by the RoRo system, 30 percent comes from the government side through using the system. But the industry is changing and subsidies will not be cost-effective for the industry or even shipping companies in the long term, said Victoriano, Marina general manager.

"Shipowners are now really competing against each other anymore," Sisaco said at the sidelines of the MTC-sponsored intermodal skills seminar at the Bayview Park Hotel. "They are competing against airlines, but fares and freights for passenger and cargo. They have to change the inefficient[sic] way of doing business and help each other bring the cost of sea travel down in order to be competitive."

Among the steps Marina is encouraging shipowners to take is consolidate freight and coordinate with each other on incoming cargo to halt so that their freight vessels can maximize space.

"Right now, there is about 30 percent of capacity wasted," Sisaco said.

Another step is to adopt containerization. This means that from long routes, say from Batangas to Davao, will be broken up into segments owned by the RoRo system, and companies can then negotiate among themselves who will serve which segment.

Victoria, Sisaco said, also wants to spearhead changes in the industry given the current situation. He said changes cannot be avoided and shipowners must think of ways in which they can sharpen their competitive edge.

"If not, we will be left behind," Sisaco told reporters.

Net FDI hit $1.15B in 7 months

In July, inflows surged threefold to $158M

By Doris C. Dumlao

NET FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTments from January to July this year breached the $1 billion mark, fueled by rising optimism on the economy's macroeconomic fundamentals, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

In a press statement, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the net FDI registered with his institution reached $1.15 billion for the first seven months of the year, up by 60.3 percent from the $720 million inflows posted in the same period last year.

For the month of July alone, the net FDI flows surged by more than threefold to $158 million from only $43 million a year ago.

"The country's strong economic fundamentals—such as improving fiscal performance and easing inflation rate—bolstered FDI during the review period," Tetangco said.

He expects the FDI to reach a sum of $1.9 billion by year's end.

Unlike portfolio investments which are more volatile, FDI flows represent investments to fetch cost-based businesses that are capital- and labor-intensive, such as those spent to building new factories, power plants and mining ventures.

Tetangco said the increase in FDI flows in the first seven months was due to the reversal of the "other capital" account, which posted a surplus of $773 million from a net outflow of $133 million seen a year ago.

Investors from the United States, Japan, Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Singapore, Netherlands and South Korea pumped in the bulk of fresh investments.

Transactions in the "other capital" account comprised mainly of intercompany borrowing or lending of funds between foreign direct investors and local subsidiaries, branches or affiliates. Booked mostly into automotive and electronic manufacturing businesses, the BSP cited cash.

Net equity capital, while lower than the year-ago level, remained in surplus at $408 million during the seven-month period.

While FDI in the Philippines have significantly picked up this year, it will represent a meager share in comparison to neighborhood's massive inflows in East Asia.

The Philippines slipped in global competitiveness ranking by five notches to 126th out of 175 countries, according to the World Bank group's latest annual survey on ease in doing business.

The country lags behind Southeast Asian neighbors Thailand (16th), Malaysia (25th), Taiwan (47th) and even Vietnam (104th). But the Philippines is ahead of Indonesia (135th) in terms of ease of doing business.

TETANGCO

all ease in doing business.

"Now the challenge is to generate the climate that would lead to more investments, both domestic and FDI," World Bank Philippines country director Joachim von Amsberg said in a recent interview. "Investment rates in the Philippines are very low and need to go up for the country to grow ... not just based on consumption but based on productivity."

Bidders seek congressional franchise for Transco

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LACK OF AN ATTACHED CONgressional franchise, as well as unresolved right-of-way issues, have been discouraging investors from bidding for the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) 25-year concession.

Emerging from a recent conference involving various foreign chambers in the country, Consumer and Oil Price Watch Head Tom Concepcion said this was the general sentiment of foreign investors who had expressed at least some interest in participating in the Transco privatization process.

"Investors want a franchise attached to the concession" Concepcion said. "They have to pay a lot of money, but then (the National Power Corp.) will continue to hold the franchise. This won't do."

He said he had gotten the same feedback from Singapore Power, the only company that participated in the recent pre-bidding conference for the concession in 2003, as well as from big British, Canadian and Australian power firms.

The companies would have been interested in bidding for the Transco concession if a Congressional franchise were attached to it, he said.

Under the current scenario, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) would give the winning consortium 12 months to secure a Congressional franchise to operate, maintain and expand the nationwide transmission grid.

The franchise that Singapore Power would not be transferred to the new concessionaire.

Concepcion said right-of-way issues also limited off-investors from participating in the Transco auction.

"Investors want an assurance that the government will exercise its power of eminent domain in the building of transmission lines, in the same way that it uses able to successfully handle the right of way [issues] for the Northrail Project," Concepcion said.

He said investors did not want to risk investing a huge amount of money only to have it "sleep" for several years while waiting for the right-of-way issues to be resolved.

From the original 12, only three bidders submitted to PSALM their pre-qualification documents for the 25-year Transco concession.

Firms acquire mining permits

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has approved the mineral exploration permits of five mining firms.

DENR Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday said that the permit issued to Canadian mining subsidiary MBG Gold Philippines Inc. covers a site measuring 216 hectares in the municipality of Mulanay, Quezon dist Norte.

Two exploration permits were to MNG local parties, Egerton Gold Philippines Inc. The company will survey a combined area of 6,960 ha in the municipalities of Lobo and San Juan in Batangas.

"These new exploration permits will boost the copper-gold drilling spree to be forged in the Cabi and the Carnay prospects," said James Anthony Climie, MBG. Gold president.

Climie in a presentation said that the company over the next two years may allot a maximum of $1 million to new investments for the prospects.

Once the exploration hours treat, the company will apply for a Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement that allows higher equity for foreign ownership.

Other mining companies that have filed mining permits are Basaltone Mining Corp., and a firm that belonged to an Hanford in Sweden, according to DENR documents.

Basaltone's first is a parcel of 800, Gold and will select up to six in Agusan del Norte and Batangas, the documents showed.

"The issuance of the new permits struck a silver lining to investors that the government's revitalization program for mining is on track," Reyes said.

VAT cap repeal seen to cost gov't P5B

By Michelle V. Rorro

THE DECISION OF CONGRESS TO repeal the 70-percent cap on value-added tax credits that businesses may claim is expected to cost the government an estimated P5.3 billion in lost revenue this year.

The lifting of the VAT cap, which now only requires the signature of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to take effect, means that businesses may now claim VAT credits in full every tax period.

The Department of Finance earlier estimated that the input VAT cap provision of the law was supposed to yield P6.9 billion in additional revenues for the government this year.

But the expected gains from the tax measure were up in smoke on Monday when the Senate decided to approve the House bill lifting the VAT cap.

The Senate did not have any amendments to the House version of the bill that lifted the VAT cap, making it unnecessary for legislators to constitute a bicameral conference committee meeting on the legislative measure.

The BOP and the government from January to July had so far collected P1.7 billion in additional revenues from the VAT cap. Following the repeal, the national government would have to forego the collection of P5.2 billion in the remaining months of the year.

Despite the expected revenue loss, the DOF said it supported the enactment of the VAT cap provision in the VAT law.

The VAT cap was strongly opposed by members of the business community, who claimed that it would unreasonably burden the income-generating capacity of firms, especially those whose profit margins are only 20 percent or less.

The 70-percent VAT cap means that the maximum amount of input VAT credits that any business may claim for every tax period is equivalent to 70 percent of its output VAT.

Input VAT is the amount of value-added tax shouldered by a taxpayer every time the person purchases goods or services whose costs already included the 12-percent VAT.

A taxpayer is allowed to deduct input VAT from its output VAT to determine his or her actual VAT liability.

Output VAT is the 12-percent tax imposed on the sales of a taxpayer.

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

Champions!

They made you scream, they made you cheer, they made your hearts race and in some cases, they even made you shed tears

2K6 dedicates this issue to the UST Growling Tigers and the San Beda Red Lions, champions of the basketball wars in the most recent season of the UAAP and the NCAA.

Get to know the Tigers and the Lions of the school pick jaught and discover their passion for basketball and beyond.

(And if you need your school personalities to be featured in our pages, e-mail to 24k6@inquirer.com.ph.)

From certain disaster to miracle victory

Text by Ruth L. Navarro and Patrick Leonard M. Mapa
Photos by Ryan Lim

THE UST GROWLING TIGERS had the perfect recipe for a disastrous season.

Their last Final Four appearance was four years ago. Their team was composed mostly of rookies and sophomores with one match experience and exposure to rely on.

A promising rookie, Jobe Lee Apil, died of electrocution after saving two kids last April.

Aristel Vincenta, the man they expected to carry the scoring cudgels, was sidelined the entire season due to an ACL tear incurred midway through their opening game against the UP Fighting Maroons.

But the biggest punch line of them all was they were led by a rookie coach, Pido Jarencio, a former UST Growling Goldie who was denied championship titles during his own artist sculpture in the '80s.

The odds were against the Tigers.

Then, they got their first taste of victory from the defending champions FEU Tamaraws and the heavily favored UE Red Warriors. This made the tumbledown take a second look at the young team.

The expectations soon shoot-lived as they dropped their next four games. The most devastating loss was against the Ateneo Blue Eagles. It was the Eagles' most lopsided victory with a 36-point advantage.

After the first round of eliminations, the team found themselves scraping the bottom of the team standings.

Everybody thought the season was over for the Tigers. Well, almost everybody except for Coach Jarencio. He rallied his team by instilling in them three values, his "Elmo P's—Pasos, Pride and Palabras."

"Mind you, it has to be in that order. The latest always comes first," explained team captain Allan Evangelista.

Unmindful of the team standings in the league, the Tigers took one game at a time, stalking their straight victories. The monsters of them was an overtime victory against the seemingly invincible Eagles who had an impressive 6-0 record and were gunning for a school record of nine straight wins.

The Tigers won that game without their main men—Jojo Duncil, Anthony Espiritu and backup point guard Jun Gomez—who had contracted typhoid fever.

Clearly, it was a message sent to the entire league not to dismiss them just yet. They got into the Final Four after battling it out with the Adamson Falcons to clinch the third spot and avoid a premature meet-up with the top-seeded Blue Eagles.

With their backs against the wall, they defeated the Red Warriors who had a twice-to-beat advantage. They banged into the Finals for the first time in seven years.

FROM LEFT PAGE 11

BOYS WILL BE BOYS. While all the girls wanted to have a piece of them, the guys just wanted to have their photo taken with a campus guard they called "Chris Tucker."

By the river where once British silver was exchanged for Chinese tea, we exchanged sweet nothings.

Why not start with a love scene at sunset. Or? Cuisines from hearty get closer to shadows go deeper. And a show under various historical bridges. A hidden kiss under an ancient tree. A candle lit enjoy under a star lit sky. Did her eyes always sparkle? Where did he learn to make so mustard linger? Is there someone in the air to not just another night in Singapore, that's a very beautiful friend?

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Joseitio "Joju" Duncil

Age: 20
Course: AB Sociology
Jersey number: 11
Team position: Guard
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the championship and when I got into the MythBusters
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? To have patience in life
Biggest lesson from this season: A lot of things could happen in a season.
Basketball idol: Kobe Bryant
Personal MVP: Ian Sison
What's your ultimate basketball dream: To win the PBA
What's your greatest passion next to basketball: Studying
What can't or will you be in a relationship without: Communication
What makes a champion team? Discipline, pride and hard work

Jervy Cruz

Age: 22
Course: BS Commerce (Business Administration)
Jersey number: 20
Team position: Forward
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the championship and when I got into the MythBusters
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? To work hard and to fight
Biggest lesson from this season: A lot of things could happen in a season.
Basketball idol: Kobe Bryant
Personal MVP: Ian Sison
What's your ultimate basketball dream: To win the PBA
What's your greatest passion next to basketball: Studying
What can't or will you be in a relationship without: Communication
What makes a champion team? Discipline, pride and hard work

Allan Evangelista

Age: 22
Course: AB Economics
Jersey number: 23
Team position: Forward
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the championship
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? To fight
Biggest lesson from this season: Learn how to be humble
Basketball idol: Jason Kidd
Personal MVP: Jayjay Suaco
What's your ultimate basketball dream: To get into the PBA
Where you've eat on the basketball court, where can we find you? I would probably be a coach right now. That was my original plan
What makes a champion team? Teamwork and respect for one another

Dylan Ababou

Age: 19
Course: AB Behavioral Science
Jersey number: 6
Team position: Guard/ Forward
Favorite UAAP moment: When I scored 20 points in Game 2 in this year's finals
What's the most important thing you were taught you? Give your best in the court, your team and be the best player there and no one can stop you.
Basketball idol: Scottie Pippen
Personal MVP: Jayjay Suaco
What's your greatest passion next to basketball: My family
I like being with when I'm not on the court, where can we find you? At school and at home
What makes a champion team? Work as one unit with joint goals, desire, dedication and love.

Anthony Espiritu

Age: 21
Course: BS Commerce
Jersey number: 14
Team position: Shooting guard
Favorite UAAP moment: When I scored my career high of 16 points against the NU Bulldogs
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? Never lose faith, don't give up, and be humble in every success. Remember the saying
Biggest lesson from this season: Don't be distracted from the challenges
Basketball idol: Allen Iverson
Personal MVP: Mbala Nzonzi
Ultimate basketball dream: Michael Jordan retiring for my whole jersey and jersey
When you're not on the basketball court, where can we find you? At the food court restaurant at the ng girlfriend

Japs Cuan

Age: 21
Course: BS Commerce (Business Administration)
Jersey number: 13
Team position: Point guard
Favorite UAAP moment: When I hugged the plaque after we won the championship
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? No "Game Slay" Basketball
Biggest lesson from this season: A season would spoil the difference between winning and losing.
Basketball idol: Mac Cuan
Personal MVP: Jervy Cruz
What's your ultimate basketball dream: My dream is to represent our country in an international tournament.
What's your greatest passion next to basketball: Music to play. My favorite song is Queen's "We Are the Champions."
What makes a champion team? A team that never loses hope

From certain disaster to miracle victory

From page 4 1

At the last second of Game 1 of the finals, the Thomasian community was celebratory with a one-point edge over Ateneo. But the Eagles' coach Norman Black knew that a second in basketball was still a century.

Making sure of a play designed to his coaching chair in the gym-league, he called off a timeout courtesy of a wide-open lay-up from forward Doug Kramer to stretch the action.

But the Tigers bounced back from the heart-breaking loss with a convincing win in Game 2 to even its series match.

"During the Finals, there was no pressure at all for us. Maybe because Coach Bido told at that point, we had nothing to lose," said Evangelista.

At the final minute or so of the fourth quarter of Game 3, almost half of those who were yellow in the Araneta that day, sat back and prayed. The higher-ups dealing and the Tigers just lost their big men, Jervy Cruz and Evangelista, due to foul troubles.

But the unlikely heroes of Basketball Season 66 of the Tigers echoed in overtime. With the two teams entangled in a serious battle, the Tigers' composure was tested as they held to win the first two winning points in the two-three line, an area where they struggled the entire series.

The UST Tigers defy the worst odds and the worst breaks to win the UAAP championship and capture the hearts of a people always rooting for the underdog and the unlikely hero

It was a romantic climb for a team that had to clinch their berth in the last day and showed what did it and they will undoubtedly remind that it was their "faith in God, hard work and big hearts."

E-mail the authors at mmanansala@inquirer.com.ph and al_salvador@yahoo.com.

June Dizon

Age: 20
Course: BS Commerce
Jersey number: 10
Team position: Power forward
Favorite UAAP moment: The last few seconds of the game in the fourth quarter in Game 3
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? Remaining humble
Who is your basketball idol? Pido Jimenez
Pick your own idol! Kobe Bryant
What makes a champion team? Hard work, pride, love and loyalty to the school

Mark Cardel

Age: 20
Course: BS Commerce (Business Administration)
Jersey number: 7
Team position: Forward
Favorite UAAP moment: Winning the championship, what else could be better?
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? Humbleness
Biggest lesson from this season: Mbala's mindset and composure
Who is your basketball idol? Dick Bowdlin
Personal MVP: Jojo Duncil
Ultimate basketball dream: To make the PBA impossibilities nothing
What makes a champion team? Hard work, pride, love and loyalty to the school

Chester Taylor

Age: 19
Course: BS Commerce (Business Administration)
Jersey number: 11
Team position: Forward/ center
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the championship
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? Humbleness
Biggest lesson from this season: Learn how to be patient and to work hard.
Basketball idol: LeBron James
Personal MVP: Jervy Cruz
Ultimate basketball dream: To meet the pros
When you're not on the basketball court, where can we find you? At home, spending time with my family
What makes a champion team? Determination and coaching

Jun Cortez

Age: 20
Course: BS Commerce (Business Administration)
Jersey number: 12
Team position: Point guard
Favorite UAAP moment: When we celebrated with our fellow Thomasians
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? Never give up. Play this game with all you have! **Biggest lesson from this season:** If we give our everything, we can reach our way to the top.
Basketball idol: Steve Nash
Personal MVP: Ian Sison
Ultimate basketball dream: To play for the PBA
What makes a champion team? Determination, heart to never give up, and coaching

AC Marquez

Age: 19
Course: BS Commerce
Jersey number: 5
Team position: Shooting guard
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the championship
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? Patience and always be ready to fight.
Biggest lesson this season: You can achieve anything with heart and hard work.
Basketball idol: Dwyane Wade
Personal MVP: Jervy Cruz
Ultimate basketball dream: To play for the PBA
What makes a champion team? Trust your teammates

Francis Allera

Age: 21
Course: BS Commerce (Business Administration)
Jersey number: 15
Team position: Small forward
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the championship
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? To have patience, work hard, play like one.
Biggest lesson from this season: Believe in the team, give a chance to learn, you never get back up.
Basketball idol: Reggie "The Minister" Miranda
Personal MVP: JC Intal
Ultimate basketball dream: To play in the NBA someday
What makes a champion team? Hard work, desire and heart

Mel Gic

Age: 21
Course: BS Commerce
Jersey number: 9
Team position: Forward
Favorite UAAP moment: Also we won, we were back to school to celebrate with our fellow Thomasians
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? Humbleness
Biggest lesson from this season: Being on the bench, also a lesson to learn you won't get back up.
Basketball idol: Reggie "The Minister" Miranda
Personal MVP: JC Intal
Ultimate basketball dream: To play in the PBA someday
What makes a champion team? Hard work, desire and heart

JESUITS VS DOMINICANS

Battle of the millennium

By Elvin Paul Pineda
ISA Contributor

The UAAP cage wars were a proxy battle between the Church's two most powerful religious orders

IF YOU THINK THE strictly contested championship series of the UAAP senior cage wars was exciting, but nothing more, then you haven't looked closely. You've just witnessed the culmination of a Holy War that has been, albeit silently, for more than half a millennium.

It wasn't just a basketball game last Oct. 2. It was the determined Dominicans going for Stubs against the mighty Jesuits in a rivalry war between two of the Church's greatest religious orders.

Everyone knows that the Counter-reformation in the 16th century stirred up a storm in Rome. But what everyone does not know is in the thick of debates over the trinity nature of God's carrying gauze on a month's free refill, a verdict was driven between two camps within the Church.

The youngest (practically a spy) members at that time Loyola (the Society of Jesus, or SJ, formed to defend liberal interpretation on grace and free will that could scar the Protestants and possibly bring them to a reconciliation with Holy Mother (the Church.

But the Dominicans (the Order of Preachers or OP) opted to stick with the strictest sense traditional Thomist teachings. (The Angelic Doctor and foremost philosophical-theologian of the Church, Sir Thomas Aquinas, being a Dominican himself, had nothing to do with this).

The arguments got hotter and spread across Catholic Europe, whenever bastions of the two orders were involved, until finally, the matter was referred to the Vatican near the end of the 16th century. Pope Sixtus V,however, merely ordered the two camps to stop squabbling and wait for a decision.

But the decision of Rome, which would have been held over likewise to heaven per the promise of the Christ, never came. And to the heat of the debates shared but the civility has lived on.

Pioneer players

Perhaps because Ignatius was a soldier, the Jesuits became militants and done to the papacy over to the cardinal players. They became adept at power play that they sometimes got their Stupid burnt.

In the 18th century Clement XIV (no, he was not a Dominican but a Franciscan who was ironically Jesuit-schooled), suppressed the Jesuits. But Pius VII restored them in 1814.

Despite their closeness to the papacy, the Jesuits never got around to having one of their own occupy the papacy. In contrast, the Dominicans have become popes—and great ones, too.

It was the Dominican Pope Pius V who called for troops under Don Juan of Austria to check the advancing Muslim Turks in the infamous Battle of Lepanto in 1571. Despite being outnumbered by the mighty Ottoman forces, the Christians miraculously won and saved Europe from Islam.

Pius V attributed that victory to the intervention of Mary through the praying of the Rosary, which of course was the devotion said to be given by the Blessed Mother herself to St. Dominic and is propagated up to now by the Dominicans.

Pius V was called by the Jesuits the "inquisitorial" Pope for having been originally with the Holy Office of Inquisition. But he was considered and is now called "St. Pius V" by them.

Closer to home, in 1646, when the Protestant Dutch came up with a powerful armada from Indonesia to invade the Philippines, Spaniards and Filipinos conquered two merchant ships en Manila Bay and foiled the invasion dramatically in what we know now as the Battle of La Naval. The victory was also attributed to the power of prayer, specifically to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, whose devotion was propagated by the Dominicans of Sto. Domingo Church.

The historic battle continues to be lavishly commemorated up to now by the Dominicans in the grand La Naval procession in Quezon City every second Sunday of October.

Proxy war

Then the UAAP came. The University of Santo Tomas deliberately pulled out of the NCAA in 1938 to help create the new UAAP. It took Jesuit-run Ateneo until 1978 to join the UAAP cage wars. And it took some time before they secured a dominant position in a league that had Dominican origins, but the thing is, they did.

And UST? For a decade since (1937) fantastic run in UAAP has bedded in the mid-'50s, and it took no longish in obstacle despite perennially winning the UAAP general championship. It couldn't be helped. Most people still think of UAAP as basketball and nothing more, period.

There came this season. As the start of the tournament, the Tigers were killed last October As for the Ateneo Blue Eagles? Well, they were soaring so far, 1.

But when the discussions smoke cleared, the Eagles found themselves confronting the Tigers. Now the Tigers were surprised they reached the finals.

While Game 2 was raging, the 8:15 p.m. anticipated Mass at UST's Santissimo Rosario Parish Church was being celebrated by Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, OP, the UST rector during the Tigers' "four-peat" run in the '70s. And since it was an anticipated Mass, it was a Mass meant for the next day, Oct. 1, the first day of the Month of the Holy Rosary!

It was Lopanto and La Naval all over again!

But all know how that game turned out. The Tigers maneuvered the Eagles, extending the series to the penultimate third game, to relish the sweet Thomasian and monastic cramps, and the rival camps—Jesuit and Dominican—called on God, Mary and all the saints to deliver this battle for them.

But apparently, the Thomasians and Dominicans prayed hardest—they were got. John Paul the Great is a great saint. That very, very eminent for the Jesuits and Ateneans. John Paul II was a student of the Dominicans in Angelicum in Rome and was close to the Dominican of Poland? What was more, he visited UST twice!

This man's history.

And that, folks, is how the OP let it rub that began in the 16th century over Protestant propositions on grace and free will has finally been resolved. Despite their wars Jesuits-jocks, the Tigers—and the Dominicans and Thomasians—willed themselves to win! And with free will came grace, lots of grace, what the beautiful UST Hymn calls "unending grace."

Ultra event honors ultra special personalities

THE PHILIPPINES IS ONE OF SIX countries to hold the Ultra Dancesaw celebration, in a regional move by featuring filmmakers to celebrate the lives of equally inspirational and unconventional personalities that previously Samsung's newly launched 65-inch Ultra mobile phones.

The Ultra Hotmixes celebrations make a stop in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam with their own inspiring talents.

"Ultra living begins when the demands of life and technology collide to give birth to unlimited possibilities," says Ignacio Blanc, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Philippines.

"In the same way, the Ultra Edition mobile phones redefine communication, set bendings and lifestyles once to all that make up our everyday living...bridging gaps and ignoring boundaries" says Samsung's SF for information communications technology Charlie Choi.

The Ultra lifestyle is defined as having gone beyond life's ordinary limits, ignoring boundaries and achieving success beyond expectations.

To be honored at an exclusive Ultra Event today in Bonifacio Tent, Makati City are fashion designer Randy Ortiz and artist philanthropist Jeanne Zapanta-Andrada.

Bee Gees at the Big Dome

WHETHER YOU ADMIT IT OR NOT, you've had a few tears sung inside your head at one time or another.

"Your Song" is All Aww!"—which one was it?

If you love the Bee Gees, you're in for a treat. Noble Gibb of the Bee Gees will perform the "Best Years/Greatest Hits Live" at the Araneta Coliseum on Nov 25, 8 p.m.

Tickets priced at P5,000, P4,500, P3,000, P2,500, P500 (plus Ticketnet service charge) are now available at SM Tickets/Ticketnet. Call 7702222, 3739999 or 9111555.

Super sale with super bargain

ROBINSONS MALLS WILL HOLD ITS LAST big sale event ING. 12-15. Expected to be the biggest sale of the year, Robinsons Malls "October Super Sale" will be going some super bargains of up to 70 percent discount. Shopping on the first day will be up to midnight plus two more days of shopping on regular mall hours. Parking up the Robinsons chain-wide super sale are the SB P3.1 tanks who will be updating their fanzones with what's happening at Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place Manila. 101.1 We FM DJs will be doing their remote updates from Robinsons Place Pasig/Ortigas and Robinsons Quezon City.

Drops of Life

BAWAT PATAK, MAHALAGA

In everything that you do, you give drops of yourself. Your effort, your time, your sweat, commitment and passion. You do this for a reason: to get the most out of every experience and to live life to the fullest.

That is why with each and every drop of energy that you share, The Coca-Cola Company endeavors to give those drops back not only through a myriad of products that answer your needs but also through various programs that aim to educate and provide proper nutrition to communities.

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We know The Coca-Cola Company as the maker of the well-loved Coca-Cola. But it is more than just that. It's an organization dedicated to the Filipino consumer. As it offers a wide portfolio of beverages, The Coca-Cola Company also supports programs that provide education, promote a healthy lifestyle and protect the environment. These programs help a number of individuals and families here and around the world.

The Coca-Cola Company
Bawat patak, mahalaga

EVERYONE DESERVES A SMILE

They say that happiness brings better health and helps you live longer. That is why we put a smile in every bottle of Coca-Cola. So every time you open one, you get that one-of-a-kind feeling that lifts your spirit and refreshes your body and soul. Nothing compares with a Coke in hand. So sit back, kick off your shoes, grab a Coke and savor life's every drop. Stay happy.

The Coca-Cola Company
Bawat patak, mahalaga

Go Pinoy! Go Dessert! Goldilocks Go-Delivery 888-1-999 Metro Manila only

LIFESTYLE

Lion hearts

San Beda's triumphant win in the NCAA finals broke a 28-year title drought

Text by Bianca Cuevas
2U© Correspondent
Photos by Wesley Gochoco

HERE IS A TEAM SO TIGHTLY bonded that when you ask a question, each player gives the same answer. Ask them what their winning formula is, and they unanimously reply, "Focus, have a good attitude, have the desire to win, and pray."

A little well-their coach, Jim Bacal (formerly of the Francisco University in the EAAP) reveals why these players are so united that they think alike, share the same jokes, score from the same course, and at some point, even start to look alike, save for Nigerian import and the league's Most Valuable Player, Samuel Ekwe.

"From the first team meeting, this has been our guiding principle: I have faith in God, faith in ourselves, and faith in one another. Faith, hard work, and the right attitude—a positive attitude—will usher the game."

The victory was especially sweet as it was Jim-Bacal's first time to win the championship in 28 years. Back when Bacal was still coaching the FEU Tamaraws, now-San Beda alumni approached him for help. A Bedan himself, Bacal moved to his alma mater when his contract with FEU expired.

Many credit Jim Bacal's win to Bacal's coaching, but he shrugs off the praise.

"When I came in, we were essentially using the same system—motion offense—as the previous coach, Nash Racela. There were no major changes, as you cannot facelift anything overnight. I told them to have faith in Coach Nash's ability."

"I came in the middle of last year's season," he recalls. "We had our last game on Aug. 27, 2005. Then I gave the team three days off and we came back to train in September for next year's season. I told them, if they wanted to be in the championship, they had to work hard."

There were other obstacles as well. Bacal found himself burdened with the task of trimming down the team to 15 players from the original 18, and decided to wait and see how to go about it. Then, during a team-building session in Cebu, he prayed to God to guide him in choosing the players to eliminate from the lineup. Eventually, two players decided from the team to transfer to La Salle, another didn't make the grade cutoff, and another fractured his ankle a week before the tournament.

"There was simply no way around it. God's hand was there to guide me. You cannot eliminate God from the equation," he says.

The championship resulted in a tremendous response from the students and the alumni. The campus of San Beda in Mendiola is full of students wearing championship-related merchandise: shirts, bonnets, jackets, stickers, etc.

Despite this, the players remain grounded. With the championship locked safely under their belt, the San Beda Lions have gone past their previous win and are now focused on the next season.

Bacal tells his team, "You made the noise; you made history. Now it's time to move on."

"Of course, we want to win more championships," he adds. "But this is just a preparation for the bigger things in life. Everything has a purpose; God gave me this opportunity to be a teacher, a guide, and a model to them. There is still a lot of things in touch, and a lot of things to learn on both sides."

E-mail the author at bianca.cuevas@yahoo.com

BIGGEST FANS. SBCAA president Dr. Conrad Dea, MVP Fr. Tere Herrera, Fr. Anscar Chupungco and Fr. Raul de Vera

DANCING at San Beda's victory party

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Ben

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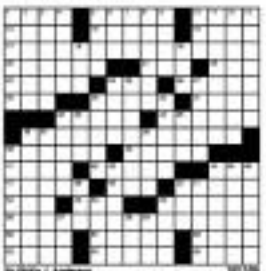
Daily Crossword



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

Horoscope

Conceptis Su Doku

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

How to play Su Doku

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	8	6	4	3	9	2	1	5
3	5	2	1	6	7	8	3	9	4
9	3	4	1	2	5	8	7	6
1	2	5	8	3	9	7	6	4	1
2	4	7	3	1	6	5	9	8
6	1	9	5	7	4	3	2	8
4	7	2	6	9	8	1	4	3	5
8	9	1	3	5	6	2	4	5	7
5	6	3	2	8	4	7	5	1	9

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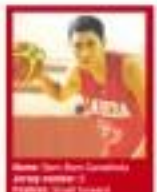
Provided by NewspaperDirect

Name: Raymond B. Maggio
Jersey number: 4
Position: Forward
Age: 20
Course: Marketing
Favorite NCAA moment: Open gameplay series, Game 3
Most important thing your coach taught you: To be humble and have a winning attitude
Biggest lesson from last season: Every sacrifice has a reward.
Basketball idol: Ben Wallace
Personal NCAA MVP: Sam Clare
Ultimate basketball dream: To be an all-star player
Ambition: To be a successful marketer
When not on the basketball, where can we find you? At De La Salle Dasmariñas or at home



Name: Sam Rene Sandoval
Jersey number: 5
Position: Small forward
Age: 20
Course: Marketing Communication
Favorite NCAA moment: Championship
Most important thing you coach taught you: Be humble, stay focused, and always have a good heart.
Biggest lesson from last season: Focus is the secret of success.
Basketball idol: Ben Wallace
Personal NCAA MVP: Sam Clare
Ultimate basketball dream: To be a professional basketball player
Ambition: To be a successful businessman
When not on the basketball, where can we find you? At the Sun Bella quarters or at home

Name: Alex Angeles
Jersey number: 7
Position: Point guard
Age: 23
Course: Marketing/Corporate Communication
Favorite NCAA moment: 65 to1 RCBA season, when we became champions!
Most important thing you coach taught you: Stay humble, focused, and have the desire to win. Have the right attitude, and respect.
Biggest lesson from last season: Always give 100 percent in every collegiate, and always stay as a team.
Ultimate basketball dream: PBA
Ambition: Maybe get into politics
When not on the basketball, where can we find you? Studying all the San Beda questions, at home with my family or friends in Bicutan, Calbayog in Laguna, or with my girlfriend

Name: JR Ibuyan
Jersey number: 8
Position: Shooting guard
Age: 24
Course: Marketing/Corporate Communication
Favorite NCAA moment: The championship game
Most important thing your coach taught you: Stay focused, remain humble and believe in God
Biggest lesson from last season: Don't relax – always focus
Basketball idols: T-Mac, Kobe, Allen Iverson
Personal NCAA MVP: Al Jamon
Ultimate basketball dream: To play in those championships
Ambition: To be a businessman
When not on the basketball, where can we find you? San Beda quarters, Calbayog

Name: Yousif Al Jamal Jr.
Jersey number: 6
Position: Forward
Age: 23
Course: Marketing and Corporate Communication
Favorite NCAA moment: 65to1 NCAA season championship
Most important thing your coach taught you: Have your heart, faith and God back in mind
Biggest lesson from last season: Focus is the secret of a successful life
Basketball idols: Allen Iverson, Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan
Personal NCAA MVP: Al Jamal
Ultimate basketball dream: PBA
Greatest success next to basketball: Last long, singing and reading
When not on the basketball, where can we find you? Home and school

Name: Jun Mark Evangelista
Jersey number: 10
Position: Guard
Age: 23
Course: Marketing
Favorite NCAA moment: Winning the championship
Most important thing you coach taught you: Have your heart, faith and God back in mind
Biggest lesson from last season: Focus is the secret of a successful life
Basketball idols: Allen Iverson, Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan
Personal NCAA MVP: Al Jamal
Ultimate basketball dream: PBA
Greatest success next to basketball: Singing, reading and writing
When not on the basketball, where can we find you? Home and school

Name: Bo Bautista
Jersey number: 11
Position: Point guard
Age: 19
Course: Marketing and Corporate Communication
Favorite NCAA moment: The championship
Most important thing your coach taught you: Stay humble and never lose the will to win
Biggest lesson from last season: Never underestimate your opponent
Basketball idol: Steve Nash
Personal NCAA MVP: Sam Clare
Ultimate basketball dream: To become a professional basketball player
When not on the basketball, where can we find you? Listening to music, at the mall or at home

Name: Martin Lloyd "Mart" C. Antonio
Jersey number: 10
Position: Forward
Age: 20
Course: Marketing and Corporate Communications
Favorite NCAA moment: The group hug at the center court after winning the championship.
Most important thing your coach taught you: Focus is the secret of success. Stay humble.
Biggest lesson from last season: Life would always be a roller coaster!
Basketball idols: Michael Jordan and Steven Martin
Greatest success next to basketball: Reading books and learning
When not on the basketball, where can we find you? Library, bonding with my mother, Lina and Lea, talking with my mom, and spending Sundays with my Minister!

Name: Samuel Chua
Jersey number: 11
Position: Center
Age: 22
Course: Marketing
Favorite NCAA moment: Finals. Most memorable thing your coach told you: To be humble
Biggest lesson from last season: Stay humble!
Basketball idol: Shaquille O'Neal
Personal NCAA MVP: Shaquille O'Neal
Ultimate basketball dream: To be a professional player
Greatest passion next to basketball: Singing (me)
When not on the basketball, where can we find you? In school

Name: Jay P.M. Tejano
Jersey number: 14
Position: Power forward
Age: 19
Course: Marketing Communication
Favorite NCAA moment: 65to1 season championship
Most important thing your coach taught you: Stay humble.
Biggest lesson from last season: Keep a sense of togetherness, spirituality, and a good attitude
Basketball idol: Shaquille O'Neal
Personal NCAA MVP: Sam Clare
Ultimate basketball dream: PBA
Ambition: To finish my studies
When not on the basketball, where can we find you? Classroom, mall, dorm, church

Name: Ryan Blanco
Jersey number: 13
Position: Small forward
Age: 20
Course: BS Marketing
Favorite NCAA moment: Semifinals against Mapua — as Beda's no. 6 and I was a rookie at age three years ago! — as they lost at 65-64.
Most important thing your coach taught you: Discipline, fearlessness, and a good attitude
Biggest lesson from last season: Can DP succeed in the PBA?
Basketball idol: Lebron James
Personal NCAA MVP: Sam Clare
Ultimate basketball dream: My greatest passion next to basketball is music. Since I was a child I've dreamed of releasing an album (Pop/Jazz), as Rapsolar, etc.
When not on the basketball, where can we find you? Doing some gigs or right here at school

Name: John Carlos "Bongie" Revinida Jr.
Jersey number: 16
Position: Point guard
Age: 19
Course: Marketing
Favorite NCAA moment: When we became champions in the 65to1 season
Most important thing your coach taught you: To have faith in God and to have a positive attitude
Biggest lesson from last season: Sacrifice is the secret of success.
Basketball idol: Steve Nash
Personal NCAA MVP: Samuel Chua
Ambition: To become a professional basketball player
Greatest passion next to basketball: To be a doctor
When not on the basketball, where can we find you? Library, or at home

Name: Kevin Ray T. Espinosa
Jersey number: 11
Position: Small forward
Age: 19
Course: Marketing
Favorite NCAA moment: The championship
Most important thing your coach taught you: Believe, and have that little mindset. Stay humble. Don't listen to the crowd – forget.
Biggest lesson from last season: Don't stop fighting until the battle is done.
Basketball idol: Kobe Bryant
Personal NCAA MVP: Sam Clare/Jun Evangelista
Ultimate basketball dream: To be a successful PBA player
Greatest passion next to basketball: Music, movies, anything like we where not on the basketball, where can we find you? In the classroom or with my family or friends

Name: John Paul P. Escobal
Jersey number: 18
Position: Guard
Age: 21
Course: BS Marketing and Corporate Communication
Favorite NCAA moment: Of course, winning the 65to1 NCAA moment! exciting
Most important thing your coach taught you: Believe and quit do it.
Biggest lesson from last season: Be mature and physically and mentally tough
Basketball idol: Kobe Bryant
Personal NCAA MVP: The whole San Beda Red Lions team
Ultimate basketball dream: To play professional basketball
Greatest passion next to basketball: I usually spend time with my family and girlfriend.
When not on the basketball, where can we find you? Home or at the mall, watching movies.

Name: Jhanmaflor Ryan Tecson
Jersey number: 15
Position: Power forward
Age: 21
Course: BS Marketing and Corporate Communication
Favorite NCAA moment: The championship – it was the most sweet of my life. What a great feeling when I brought up red. I cried, literally, fainted on field.
Biggest lesson from last season: Stay humble. Focus. Fight. "Very unique but so memorable were we both."
Basketball idol: Kobe Bryant
Personal NCAA MVP: Al Jamal
Ultimate basketball dream: PBA
Greatest passion next to basketball: Music, composing
When not on the basketball, where can we find you? School, computer shop, Subway

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Claudine T. Dela Torre	Laguna	Rachel Banica	Parañaque
Darryl Luke Tan	Quezon City	Richard Lopez	Pampanga
Perseo Enrico San Pedro	Quezon City	Samantha Dungon	Antipolo
Mary Grace Sibolos	Quezon City	Susan M. Abalde	Antipolo

APPLE VIDEO iPOD (30 winners)

Abilene Marie R. Reyes	Mandaluyong	Ryan C. Angeja	Taguig
Alma Grace Gonzole	Iloilo	Ryan L. Alcantara	Cebu
Anthony Arriola	Rizal	Sheryll Joy Timbol-Lunar	Manila
Arjuna Cano	Manila	Vincent Bollering Jr.	Quezon City
Aurea Co	Pasig	Virgilio de Dios	San Juan
Carlo Francisco	Quezon City		
Cielo Rose M. Ferrer	Pampanga		
Deborah Ann Wong	Cavite		
Divella M. Mondallow	Legaspi City		
Gabriel B. Marggayt	Quezon City		
Henry B. Cassel	Makati		
Isabelle Ng	Mandaluyong		
John Tinga	Manila		
Junior Sia	Tabaco City		
Lily Go	Quezon City		
Lorna V. Nieves	Pasay		
Lou Kenneth M. Sanchez	Manila		
Manuelo Yap	Manila		
Manuel T. Ganapmo	Cavite		
Marina Leonida V. Africa	Aklan		
Mary Kathleen Jayor	Quezon City		
May D. Lallgarin	Muntinlupa		
Myrna Bautista	Laguna		
Precious Caparas	Pasig		
Rouzan M. Reyes-Lopez	Bulacan		

Provided by NewspaperDirect

OCTOBER IS FOR KIDS AT ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE

Kids, get ready to unwrap your most exciting gift this October as **Robinsons Department Store** (RDS) presents "Kids' Dream World," a month-long celebration featuring an exciting array of toys, clothes, fun, prizes, tons of surprises and discounts of up to 50%.

Dream these up: toy laptops, cool sunglasses and colorful rosaries for the tech-savvy tykes; books and educational items for the inquisitive ones; shape sorters and blocks for budding overachievers and kiddie crafters and kitchen play sets and other role play toys for little girls, among many others. Young bad-to-the-bones, meanwhile, can all be glammed up with pretty blouses and accented sandals; pearled tops and shirts, strappy shoes and kitten-heeled slip-ons. Teeny gents, on the other hand, will look dapper in collared shirts, long-sleeved polos paired with hip footwear.

Dress up the little ones in all things fun and funky, especially when they don entire looks and little girls' stockings or the charming Mexican zip-locks/under-garment craft packs.

Another bonus from RDS is the chance to buy a cute teddy bear for only P188.75 for a minimum P500 purchase of participating items from the Kids' Fair. And here's another great deal – you can also be one of the 25 winners of ride-all-you-can passes to Enchanted Kingdom for two if you buy P500 worth of kids' apparel, accessories, shoes, bags and toys. Or get a chance to win a three-day-two night trip to Hongkong Disneyland (with three persons you love to go with you) and some pocket money, too.

RDS' "Kids Dream World" weaves its magic and makes your dreams come true. So, hoop to the RDS store nearest you.

("Kids Dream World" is happening simultaneously in all Robinsons Department Store branches located in Robinsons Malls, Waltermart Malls, Tutuban Center, Metropolis Star and Festival Mall in Alabang, Naga Mall-Pampanga and Dagupan, Pangasinan; Limketkai Mall, Cagayan de Oro City and its island branch in Walterfair, Dapan, Buenos Ecija. For more details, link up with www.rds.com.ph. Watch out for the Kids' Dream World Catalog featuring new and sale items from kids apparel, accessories, shoes and toys to be inserted in the October issue of *i-Zone* magazine!)

Robinsons Department Store

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See poster mechanics for details.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Rosario Q. Yolando

Two out, 10 to go

Stef and Drae are voted off from 'Idol's' Final Twelve

By Marinel R. Cruz

PHILIPPINE IDOL FINALISTS Stephanie "Stef" Lazaro and Andre "Drae" Ybañez, the first two contestants to be voted off from ABC 5's singing talent search program, are convinced they got booted out too because they are inferior singers but because they "didn't get enough votes."

"Unlike the other contenders, I don't have a solid group of voters," Drae told Inquirer Entertainment in an interview on Monday.

Stef agreed: "I just didn't connect with the audience. They all have their favorites. Maybe I wasn't who they wanted. Also, my fan base wasn't as huge as others, although my family and friends campaigned really hard."

Drae, the 26-year-old from Cagayan Legis, Cebu, also believed that his overall ranking in the Top 12 was affected because the show chose to "carry over" last week's votes. "My performance at that time wasn't my best. Two of the three judges weren't pleased," he explained.

Last week, the show canceled its first elimination round due to technical glitches brought about by Typhoon "Milenyo."

Now free to be out of the competition, Drae said he would continue helping the kids of the Children's Garden, a drop-in center for street kids in Antipolo City, and the Child Care Community Workers, a Cebu, B'laod-based organization that conducts feeding programs in key areas in the country.

Stef, 27, is considering the possibility of taking a deal with a recording company. "I also miss spending time with my family and friends," added the owner to 3 year-old Chanel.

When your name was called on Sunday night, what was on your mind?

Drae: Honestly, all I could think about then was whether I could still sing my piece. I didn't have enough sleep on Saturday night and my throat was hurting. The fact that I was voted off hadn't sunk in then.

Stef: I felt nothing. I just went blank. I was numb. I asked myself, 'Am I dreaming?'

How do you feel right now?

D: I feel like I'm floating. Sobrang lungkot. It's the end of the journey for me. I'll miss the guys. I received a lot of text messages from people saying they were shocked. They cried for me. Right now, I feel overwhelmed with the love and support of family and friends. Actually, a lady who approached me last night said she felt a calmness for me in the Sta. Catalina Church. She cried kasi hindi raw siya pinagbigyan. I smiled up comforting her.

I feel flattered whenever people come up to me and tell me they're rooting for me. I don't know them from Adam, but they support me.

S: I feel relieved. I've been through a lot of pressure having to perform every week. I missed spending time with my family and friends.

First Time songs you wanted to sing but didn't get the chance to?

D: The song "Wild Flower." It was my audition piece. I had hoped to sing it in the finals, but Onyx Kubale already sang it.

S: None really. I just preferred to sing the Spy Video version of "Ikaapat Sa 'Yo" than that of Nina Sinsuhin' for the one (2) that we recorded. Also, we didn't have many songs to choose from in the solid round.

How far did you think you would make it in the competition?

D: I really wanted to go for the top duo. People close to me said they're scared for me because I hope too much. They said they don't want to see me crushed. I told them that it's okay for something less, there's a big possibility that I would leave my standard. That mind-set was probably the reason I made it to the Top 12. But I guess God has other plans for me. I accept the verdict wholeheartedly.

S: I don't really know. A lot were saying, 'Where did Stef get all the votes when she grew up in Australia?' What they don't know is that I have lots of family and friends here. I was here until I was 8. I definitely hoped to be in the Top 12. I'm just grateful that I got that far.

Now that you've been booted out, who will you vote for and why?

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Two out, 10 to go

From page E1

D: I'll miss Sir Armando (Cruz). She's a fighter. If she gets to compete in "World Idol," I'm not passing (Alaiza) Ta. She's very strong. She deserves to win.

S: I'll support Pam (Chavez) because I believe in her talent. She's like a sister to me. We've been roommates since we got picked for the Top 12. She's a quick dresser, like me. We never fight about who goes to the bathroom first.

Do contestants consult each other on which song is best for them?

D: Sometimes. During rehearsals, for example, Sassa would come up to me and tell me I need to improve on a certain part of my song. Sometimes, I tell him which angle to tune for him on TV. He give each other pieces of advice.

S: Not really. We're given a list of songs and asked to pick from that list. We have people like the production staff to consult.

Dyan, you got good reviews from all the three judges—Ryan Cayabyab, Pilita Corrales and Francis Magalona—this week. Were you surprised to be eliminated?

D: Yes. But I've already conditioned my mind to expect the unexpected. I had hoped to sing for "Idol" a little more, kaysoh talaga. Labas naman kami nanggagaya.

Apart from singing, you're done with for kids. What do you think you're going to concentrate on now?

D: My journey, "Philippine Idol" was part of a long-term plan. I wanted to build a different image to get support from people who can help the kids. I will continue singing. I was born to sing. Through singing, I will be able to share to other people the stories of these kids.

Sief, Judge Pilita asked you to shed some weight, will you still continue dieting?

S: I'm just searching what I can because I suffer from asthma. Recently, I nearly got pneumonia. I had to be taken to the hospital. Since (since) his sum of difficulty in breathing. My asthma makes it difficult for me to support high notes. I take, want to keep up with my daughter who is growing up very fast. Ang hirap nalalabo (laughs).

Do you personally think the public cares about size to this competition?

S: I think they do care, although they don't want to say it because Filipinos are generally anti-spoken. I think they are looking for someone with the total package, a superstar.

Do you get advice for the clothes you wear on the show?

D: We have a sponsor for the clothes we wear every Sunday but on Saturdays, I wear mostly my personal stuff or those I borrowed from my sisters or cousins. The black cocktail dress I wear last Saturday was a hand-me-down from my cousin.

What comes next for you after "Philippine Idol?"

S: I can't wait to start working again. I received a couple of offers to do a recording. I'm kind of excited.

What's your observation about the show's fortunes 47 (With Sief and Dyan in the Bottom 4 are Gian Magdangal and Pam Chavez.)

D: Aabot kami magpaguling (laughs). I think we had trouble in our campaign. (Sief: Aayos naguling na ulit).

S: I guess we just don't have as many supporters. I was really shocked to see Pam and Gian in the Bottom 4. I know that they got a lot of supporters, and like (Jose's first smoke ups, I was asked who I think is the weakest link. I said it's too early to tell. We all had our hits and misses. For example, we know that (Marvelo) is good but she didn't get in the first time. She had to compete in the wildcard round. Maybe when they get to the Top 6, things will be more predictable.

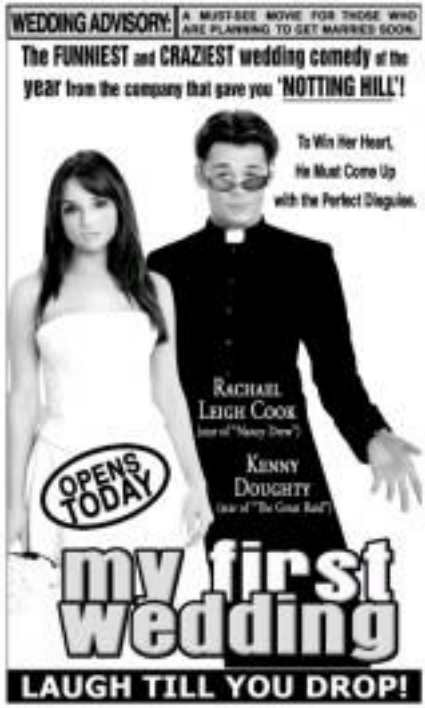
What's the best and worst part of about being an "Philippine Idol?"

D: It's the long hours of waiting that drove me crazy. Waiting for taping, recording or for the show (prepare) to begin was very stressful. The best thing about it is the friendship with the Top 12 musicians and with the show's staff.

S: The worst part are hearing people and reading blogs that put my friends down. I'm like a mommy to all of them. I want to defend them because I know the truth. I get hurt whenever people say ada is aloof because I know how to be sweet and kind. I hate hearing rumors, but I know that it's part of this industry. Not everyone will like you. The best part is getting to do every week what I love to do most, which is to perform.

STEP: "I feel relieved."

DYAN: "I feel like I'm floating."



Provided by NewspaperArchive

Opening Today

robust world of baseball fanatics. John Belton of The Hollywood Reporter opines that "the screenplay's naïve moralizing suggests that the filmmakers are against [violence]. But the film itself is not sure. Styles are accompanied by an enthusiastic sound soundtrack and seen through a camera shaky with adrenaline." Joan Bernard of New York Daily News says "the movie doesn't shy away from the extremely rough-and-tumble of street gangs ... [and] somewhat reminiscent the idea that those kids are all right." Jesse Andrew of The Seattle Post-Intelligencer dismisses it as "yet another predictable gang film ... " Rachmady in Inside Media Cincinnati.

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning

Stars Jordana Brewster, Taylor Handley, Eric Balfour, Diora Baird
Directed by Jonathan Liebesman

The same producers behind the 2003 remake of the cult slasher flick whip up this prequel which details the genesis of the birth clan and [unintelligible] "perhaps the most iconic horror character of all time." A bloody-disgusting cross between Saw and Seven? Sadly it is "the most physically draining movie I've ever seen ... What separates it from the rest is not only how emotionally it involves us, but its [extraordinary] in its sweat ... the most brutal film ever." Emanuel Levy of emanuellevy.com agrees that "fans of the 'Chainsaw' franchise will delight in the elements, tour, the-top gore and madness that the [sequel] delivers." Kerry Knowles of starfiend.com states it as "one hell of a grisly bloody flick...fine that there is add to the legend of Leatherface, but then so with a seedy and jaundiced touch."

Barnyard: The Original Party Animals

With the voices of Kevin James, Courteney Cox, Sam Elliot, Andie MacDowell, Danny Glover
Directed by Steve Oedekerk

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GALLERIA

1 STEP UP + TBE	6 MY FIRST WEDDING
2 TIL' I MET YOU	7 TALLARIGA NIGHTS
3 THE DEPARTED	8 PULSE
4 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	9 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 THE GUARDIAN	10 TWILIGHT DANCERS

ERMITA

1 TIL' I MET YOU	
2 THE GUARDIAN	5 MY FIRST WEDDING
3 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	6 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 THE DEPARTED	7 PULSE

METRO EAST

1 TIL' I MET YOU	5 MY FIRST WEDDING
2 THE GUARDIAN	6 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	7 PULSE
4 THE DEPARTED	8 STEP UP FIRST DAY HIGH

NOVALICHES

1 TIL' I MET YOU	4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 THE GUARDIAN	5 BARNYARD
3 THE DEPARTED	

CITISQUARE MALABON / PIONEER

CITISQUARE MALABON	PIONEER
1 TIL' I MET YOU	1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 FIRST DAY HIGH	2 THE GUARDIAN
3 RESERVE	3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 RESERVE	4 MY FIRST WEDDING

STA. ROSA / LIPA

STA. ROSA	LIPA
1 TIL' I MET YOU	1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN	2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 STEP UP	3 THE WICKER MAN
4 DEAD OR ALIVE	4 SCOOP

DASMARIÑAS / ANGELES

DASMARIÑAS	ANGELES
1 TIL' I MET YOU	1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN	2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE DEPARTED	3 THE BREED
4 STEP UP	4 DEAD OR ALIVE

IMUS / STARMILLS

IMUS	STARMILLS
1 TIL' I MET YOU	1 THE GUARDIAN
2 THE GUARDIAN	2 TIL' I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED	3 THE DEPARTED
4 DEAD OR ALIVE	4 THE BREED
	5 DEAD OR ALIVE
	6 POSSESSED BY EVIL

BACOLOD / ILOILO

BACOLOD	ILOILO
1 TIL' I MET YOU	1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS	2 FLY BOYS
3 SCOOP	3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 FLY BOYS	4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE	

movietime SHOWTIME

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MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

OPENING TODAY

This animated feature finds comedy in the premise that, while their human masters are away, farm animals walk on hind legs, talk incessantly and party just as hard. Joe Leydon of Variety notices that it's "reasonably funny yet weirdly unemotional ... zippy enough to delight youngsters and clever enough to engage their parents." Marie Eida of Premiere magazine dissents: "It's the season's weakest contender ... a disappointing follow-up to the [filmmaker's] rascal-sentenced tour de force, Chicken Run Genius." Luke Y. Thompson of The Hollywood Reporter points out: "[It's] more noisy than arty. The computer-generated animation is painstakingly achieved (though)." Jane Horwitz of Washington Post concludes: "Kids 6 and older may laugh now and then at this ill-conceived comic fable."

OPENINGS, C3

HOW TO GET CLOSE TO THE GIRL OF YOUR DREAMS AND WIN HER HEART:

- ☐ A) Disguise yourself as a priest so you can hear her intimate confessions and know her more.
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- ☐ C) Buy her a car, even though you can't afford one.
- ☐ D) Give her fake diamonds.
- ☐ E) Tell her you are a prince from a far away land.

* IF YOU CHOSE (A), THEN YOU DEFINITELY SHOULD SEE THIS MOVIE!

my first wedding

The FUNNIEST and CRAZIEST wedding comedy of the year from the company that gave you "NOTTING HILL"!

OPENS TODAY

Opening Today

My First Wedding

Stars: Rachael Leigh Cook, Kevin Dunphy, Paul Hopkins, Valerie Mahaffey, Caroline Rowe

Directed by Laurent Firode

A dizzy would-be bride (Cook) mistakes the carpenter (Dunphy) repairing the confession booth for a priest. He instantly falls in love and poses as Father Confessor to get closer to the lovely girl. Steve Rubin of The Kansas City Star calls it a "run-of-the-mill farce with an undeniably sexier undertone. Most of the laughs come from bellow actors **writing dark lines** as if they were reading **from a Telephone**." Elisabeth Weissman of New York Daily News is similarly unthrilled: "The [carpenter's] shameless duplicity is presented as the height of romance, while the [bride's] bizarre impulsiveness, perhaps charming." Nick Schager of Slant magazine sees it up, rhen: "The [movie's] **universe inspires** a stupidity ... the wit **leanness of** its underlining naive, presumptuous ... **Team** but fun."

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 THE DEPARTED
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
PREMIERE THEATRE — PULSE

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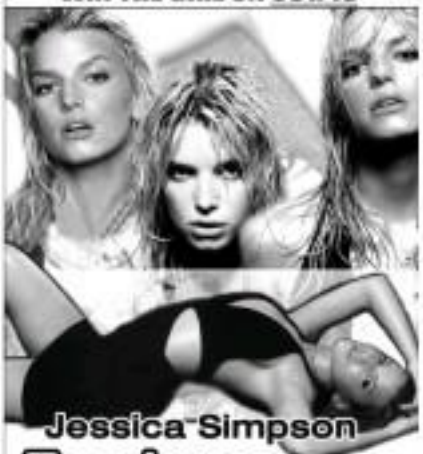

Jessica Simpson
Employee of the Month

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TILL I MET YOU	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	THE GUARDIAN	
PULSE	THE DEPARTED	VILLAGGIA NIGHTS	
MY FIRST WEDDING	FIRST DAY HIGH	DEAD OR ALIVE	THE GUARDIAN

MALL 5

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 MY FIRST WEDDING

ARANETA COLISEUM

TWENTY - REGINE VELASQUEZ CONCERT! — October 13 to 14 · Friday & Saturday · 8 pm

WWE SMACKDOWN! SURVIVOR SERIES TOUR — October 21 · Sat. 6 pm & October 22, Sun. 3 pm

glorietta — GREENBELT — ESTANCIA TOWN — AYALA CENTER CEBU — MARKET! MARKET! — Ayala Malls Circuit

AT THE CINEMAS — THX

G1	1 MY FIRST WEDDING	2 THE GUARDIAN	3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE THE BEGINNING	4 TILL I MET YOU		
G4	1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION			
	4 PULSE	5 THE DEPARTED	6 THE GUARDIAN	7 TILL I MET YOU		
GB1	1 STEP UP		2 TILL I MET YOU			
GB3	1 PELICULA CINEMANIA MEDIANOCHE		2 THE GUARDIAN			
	3 GREEK SWEET WEDDING	4 THE DEPARTED	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION			
ATC	1 THE GUARDIAN		2 TILL I MET YOU			
	3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE THE BEGINNING	4 PULSE	5 THE DEPARTED			
ACC	1 THE GUARDIAN	2 TILL I MET YOU	3 FLYBOYS	4 THE DEPARTED		
M2	1 THE DEPARTED		2 TILL I MET YOU			
	3 THE GUARDIAN	4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE THE BEGINNING	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION			

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ESTANCIA TOWN
Hawaii's Exhibit — October 5 to 21, 2006	Pedigree Hardware Exhibit — Oct. 6 to 15, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Commanding Autistic Sign Language Appreciation Course — October 5, 2006	Call Center Job Fair — October 5 to 7, 2006

GREENBELT — Cathay Pacific's Promo Exhibit — October 5 to 12

Glorietta — Repertory Philippines presents THE BOOK of THE PROPOSAL at REP's Onstage Theater — September 15 to October 8, 2006

Ayala Museum — Homecoming of 21st Asian International Art Exhibition Philippines — September 15 to October 1, 2006

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EQUAL — glorietta

Provided by NewspaperDirect

Shafts of broadcast light during the blackout

THE BIGGEST BLACKOUT AFTER Typhoon "Milenyo" cut its swath of destruction across Luzon, darkened our TV screens and forced us to get answers to our many questions from our trusty—and, lately—battery-operated radio.

As then, we were grateful for the information on the shifts that repowers and people appointments provided. Not long after, however, we realized that, much too often, we were getting updates, speculation or rumors, but real information.

Statement in the thoughts of many listeners bedridden in the enveloping dark was the question, "When will power in our area be restored?" The question was straightforward enough, but the answers turned out to be shrouded, long-winded and befuddling.

Artistically it shaped up as, "What areas will have their power restored by

Monday by Sunday?" Then, it got stalled to, "We need to first focus on restoring power to key places like hospitals, the electric rail service, government installations and the commercial arena, before we can address the lots of power-incentive-ish areas."

Hey, wait a quick minute, don't a major shift of focus from "power back by Sunday!"

Even later, listeners were disheartened all the more when the answer was further diluted to, "We're doing the very best we can, our repair people haven't taken for 36 hours, and power should be restored in most places by Tuesday or Wednesday."

Worse, a number of the radio people we listened to appeared to be adding "soft" questions and chronically supporting the plea for "patience and understanding." Frankly, we expected more listener support for reporters and representatives from radio, as millions suffered throughout the pitch-black nights and stifling days.

Our recent days-long "radiothon" also brought us up to date on how the medium is being utilized here these days. Alas, there wasn't much to celebrate, since for many of the radio people we listened in, it was business as usual, despite the unusual challenge of the powerful typhoon and its aftermath.

Commentators were still yukking and cutting off the top of their heads, drollers dithered and snakeoil salesmen slithered, hosts of call-in shows showed banal wisdom as though they were the newly anointed 11th and 12th commandments—definitely not the programming that listeners yearning for genuine solace and inspiration wanted to hear during their darkest moments.

Happily, some shows of broadcasting light pierced the gap and gloom. We enjoyed a climatized series on coverage officials, a late-night show dispensed pithy advice in the gaga lovebots, and some good music solved listeners' tattered and shattered sensibilities.

Let there be more shafts of light. Let there be better radio, the next time large parts of the country are smashed by a natural disaster and its dire consequences. The country's millions of information-hungry listeners deserve nothing less.

OPENING TODAY

Till I Met You

Stars Bobbie Padilla, Regine Velasquez, Eddie Garcia, Manny Ojeda, Archie Ritz

Directed by Mark Reyes

The romantic-comedy from GMA Films also made in line partnership with Viva Films, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. The longlived, who is celebrating her 36th anniversary. On you plays a golfer who has her eyes on the wealth of an aging bachelor (Garcia), whose right hand man (Padilla) is determined to expose the bride's gold-digging ways. As the process, however, romance blooms between the two actors and the latter's assistant. This is the latest team-up of Padilla and Velasquez, who were last seen in 2004's "Kahangan Ko Ba Ang Lahat" (Did I Have Everything). Both films have billed this romp as a "crazy, smart-ass and sizzling love story ... But beside away from the usual hop-eaters girl romances ... it's the ultimate kilig (goose bumps) movie of the year."

The Guardian

Stars Kevin Costner, Ashton Kutcher, Cissy Brown, Neal McDonough

Directed by Andrew Davis

In the Hollywood tradition of pairing reluctant, grizzled mentors with eager-beaver neophytes, Costner and Kutcher portray respectively Coast Guard rescue swimmers—part of "an elite group that specializes in all-water operations." Tony Alderso of the South Florida Sun-Sentinel bemoans that the film features "Hollywood clichés and the warm, most dystopian ending ... [It] further proof that there really is nothing original left in big studios." Robert Denmeade of Denver Rocky Mountain News concedes: "You've seen it a thousand times ... a picture that isn't likely to impress with its originality ... but [it] accomplishes what it sets out to do with reasonable skill."

Green Street Hooligans

Stars Elijah Wood, Charlie Hunnam, Claire Forlani, Rhys Warren, Henry Goodman

Directed by Lexi Alexander

After being expelled from Harvard, an American journalism student [Wood] moves to London and gets embroiled in the